



**2013**  
**OUTDOOR PARK AND RECREATION**  
**MASTER PLAN**

December 9, 2013



## **2013 CITY OFFICIALS**

Chris Corrie  
Mayor

Larry Stoner  
Alderman, Ward I

Tim Hayes  
Alderman, Ward I

Wendell Brock  
Alderman, Ward II

Kevin Hiller  
Alderman, Ward II

Lyle Murdock  
Alderman, Ward III

Michael Brown  
Alderman, Ward III

John Miller  
Alderman, Ward IV

Vince Kuetemeyer  
Alderman, Ward IV

Pam Harlan  
City Clerk

Joanne Hodges  
City Treasurer

City Engineer – Terry Summers

Recreation Director - Carlos McClellan

Asst. Recreation Director - Mindy Condis

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

Opportunities for providing facilities and services are becoming increasingly limited, as local government budgets are strained and the fixed supply of land is rapidly diminishing. In order for the Monticello Recreation Department to keep up with short and long term demands for parks and open space, a tool is needed to provide direction. The Park and Recreation Master Plan is designed to be this tool. The Plan serves as a framework outlining acquisitions, potential improvements, and strategies for implementation.

It is the intent of the Monticello Recreation Master Plan to be dynamic and flexible, able to accommodate changes in the recreational needs of local residents. The City Council should have the flexibility to make changes when unexpected opportunities arise, or as recreational demands may change.

### Goals of the Plan:

- To develop guidelines for park and recreation development decision-making
- To provide short, intermediate and long-range direction for planning and development
- To inventory and analyze the existing parks open space and its current use and role in the community
- To establish priorities and recommendations for existing and future parkland acquisition and development
- To develop a palette of recreational opportunities and ideas that will inspire the decision-makers when looking towards park redevelopment.

## COMMUNITY HISTORY

The history of Monticello begins in 1822 with the arrival of Quaker George Haworth who was a liaison agent for the United States government and the local Native American tribes. Haworth

constructed a small log cabin, the first in what was later to become Piatt County, but soon left the area. In 1829 James A. Piatt purchased Haworth's cabin for his family and this area became known as Piatt's Point.

While movement was being made toward the formation of Piatt County, James A. Piatt, Major James McReynolds, Abraham Marquiss, and William Barnes formed a joint stock company to develop a village. James A. Piatt registered the plat in Macon County in 1837 and Major James McReynolds named it Monticello, a reflection of his admiration for Thomas Jefferson.

The citizens of Monticello and the surrounding areas began to complain about the distance required to travel to the county seat of Decatur to attend to legal matters. In 1841 a new county was organized and named in honor of James A. Piatt. Monticello, being the only established town at the time, was named as the county seat.

Access to Monticello greatly improved with the coming of the railroads to Central Illinois in the 1860s. Monticello finally secured a contract for a railroad between Champaign and Monticello in 1871 and Monticello incorporated as a city in 1872.

By the 1880s, the widespread use of drainage systems allowed agricultural operations around Monticello to expand and bring the success of farming to the area.

One of the most important men in the history of Monticello arrived in 1885. Dr. W.B. Caldwell came to practice medicine in Monticello, but his homemade mixture of senna and pepsin brought Monticello to a level of national prominence. The Pepsin Syrup Company was founded in 1893 and became the leading employer in the city for decades.

During the 1966 City Beautification Project, many of the pent roofs and new storefronts were added to the buildings facing the square.

The project was conceived as an approach to bettering Monticello's image.

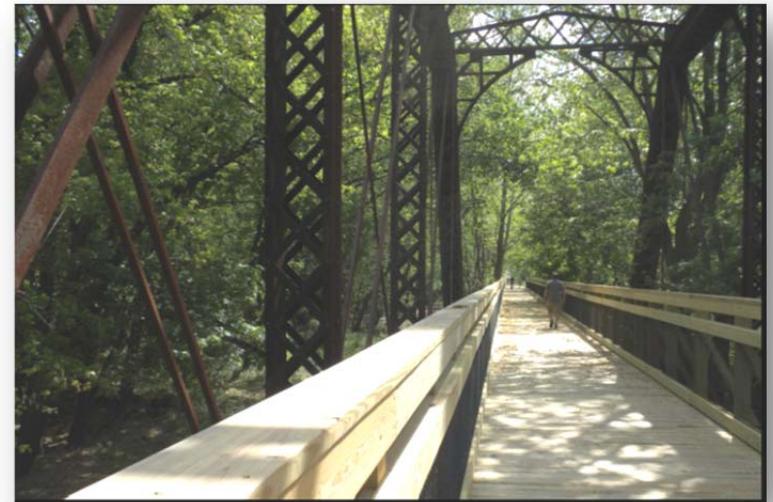
By the early 1990s, public attention had shifted toward historic preservation. The City of Monticello applied and was accepted to become a Main Street Community. This program was developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and advocates regeneration of the historic downtown areas throughout the United States. Monticello is only one of many Main Street Communities in Illinois. In order to qualify, the city had to form a Historic Preservation Commission and also create a historic preservation ordinance as part of the city's legislation.

The focal point of Monticello is the courthouse square and surrounding historic commercial district. To the nearby north of the downtown is the National Register-listed North State Street Historic District, a six block long residential district consisting of fifty-six contributing buildings and to the nearby south of the downtown is the National Register-listed South Charter Street Historic District, a three block long residential district consisting of fifty-nine contributing buildings.

The city currently has two local designed landmarks. The Monticello Depot designated in 2004 and the Piatt County Courthouse designated in 2005.

## ***Recreation Fun Facts...***

*2012 was a very busy year for the Monticello Family Aquatic Center (MFAC), with just under 28,000 visits from swimmers!*



## **MONTICELLO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

**“To foster a lifetime of appreciation and involvement in recreation and wellness activities for the community and region, contributing to the physical, social, intellectual and cultural development of those served.”**

The City of Monticello Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) is an organization of and under the legal authority of the Monticello City Council. The MPRD is entrusted with the responsibility for planning, executing and appraising the City’s parks and recreation programs. It is the duty of the City Council to review the basic policy for the operation, control, improvement and planning– present and future – of parks and recreational facilities, and activities within the City of Monticello. MPRD is managed by Director Carlos McClellan and Assistant Director Mindy Condis, and employs an average of 65 seasonal employees.

## **CITY OF MONTICELLO MISSION STATEMENT**

**"Through the use of effective leadership, teamwork, accountability and communication, the City of Monticello provides quality public services that enhance the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Monticello." - *City of Monticello Mission Statement***

## **MONTICELLO PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION**

The Monticello Parks & Recreation Foundation was formed in 2012 to provide a private stream of fundraising efforts for the purpose of

Monticello Parks and Recreation programs. The board is made up of five voting members and one ex-officio member. The mission of the Monticello Parks and Recreation Foundation is to assist in securing financial and philanthropic support for the Monticello Parks and Recreation Department and promote awareness of the benefits of recreation to the community.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommendations and conclusions located within the Master Plan were reached through a detailed planning process involving members of the Recreation Department staff, LandTech staff, and a series of a public meetings and surveys. The process began with systematic inventory of existing parks and facilities, potential development areas, and led to comparisons with state and national recreational standards.

## PLANNING PROCESS

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The analysis and assessment tasks were as follows:

### Data Gathering

The master planning process was initiated by collecting information concerning Recreation Department resources, demographics, and public interests. This information is the basis for enhancement recommendations. The following outlines the data-gathering process:

- Conduct an inventory of existing recreation facilities, public parks, and open space resources by documenting the existing inventory of parks and facilities.
- Gather current and future demographic data on the City.
- The University of Illinois was contracted to perform an Attitude and Interest Survey during winter of 2007.

### Analysis

Analyze data collected and identify specific needs regarding the current Recreation Department facilities and services offered.

- Provide Parks and Open Space Calculations and analysis compared to National and State Standards for open space and facilities.
- Develop a list of specific Parks and Recreation Department System Recommendations to meet needs identified by the resident survey, standards comparisons, and the Park Board.
- Evaluate and project future, system-wide needs.
- Identify areas inadequately served by current parks and facilities.
- Prepare recommendations and implementation guidelines.
- Prepare prototypical park designs illustrating creative development solutions for neighborhood and school-park redevelopment.

### Implementation

The implementation phase of the plan is intended to provide a framework of tasks and methods to achieve the plan goals.

- List priorities for development and enhancements of the parks system.
- Prepare a 5- year financial plan to support the direction of the Parks Master Plan.
- This Plan has also been created to meet the guidelines and matching grant requirements established by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- When applying for OSLAD or other state funding, an analysis of current park amenities vs. planned should be tabulated and compared with the Illinois Recreation Facility Inventory to determine NEED. At this time, it appears the city has a HIGH NEED for most eligible facilities on the Inventory.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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These evaluations were used to form a set of recommendations for existing parks and for new facilities. General recommendations made for Monticello are categorized below.

### **Land Acquisition**

- Correct land needs for the planning areas.
- Land Acquisition priorities in accordance with planning area requirements and current community needs. Continuing analysis and monitoring of land values and acquisition opportunities.
- Study potential for acquiring a site(s) capable of supporting park maintenance facilities and storage needs.
- Where land is needed in built-up residential areas, identify potential residential or commercial lots that provide potential to expand park space.
- Look at open space to the east of the high school tennis courts.

### **Facility Development**

- Develop an athletic facility that will foster growth of competitive programs. Tournaments, support ever increasing numbers of users and provide for better maintenance sustainability. The City undertook a Master Plan study for the creation of a multi-use sports complex on the west side of town in 2010. This project should proceed as soon as possible. Grant opportunities for funding should be pursued as the amenities included are in high-need for the City. From staff interviews, the Forest Preserve ballfields, fields at the high school, and tee ball fields at the driving range appear to be inefficient in location and layout, making play and maintenance difficult and expensive.
- Investigate feasibility of new facilities, or in the least, new or improved programs to help bolster revenues.
- Utilize natural areas, or areas otherwise not suited to typical recreational pursuits for the creation of adventure parks and play

areas, such as climbing walls, team obstacle courses, BMX tracks, paint ball courses, trap shooting / sporting clays, and skating facilities.

- Study re-development of tennis courts. Existing tennis courts appear to be in low supply. An opportunity may exist with the High School to repair and re-develop the exiting court area. By providing lights, the courts could be used in the evening by the public after work and school.

### **Park Enhancements – existing parks**

Additional enhancements specific to each existing park are made in **Section 4, Existing Parks Survey and Enhancements**. These recommendations suggest what each park requires in order to improve the quality of the existing facility. These improvements may include items such as landscaping improvements, increased and/or updated signage, additional parking, updated playgrounds, picnic shelters, pathways and trails, and/or creative new features that will help to meet the needs of residents.

### **Overall Park System**

The following is a summary of recommendations for the overall park system:

- Redesign and modernize existing parks throughout the community.
- Pay particular attention to incorporating ADA requirements into park modernizations.
- Perform a detailed ADA study on all facilities, and bring them into compliance.
- Increase the diversity and quality in existing play environments, using themed playgrounds and challenging equipment. Work to prevent cookie cutter designs and build creative playgrounds that encourage physical, social, and mental development in children.

- Increase the opportunities for multi-purpose trails for:
  - Walking – loop pathways around larger parks or tie to sidewalks
  - cycling for pleasure
  - In-line skating.
  - See Section 6 - Bike Plan for corresponding standards for development.
  - Work cooperatively with the Piatt County Forest Preserve District and other adjacent municipalities to ensure trail connectivity.
- Provide more opportunities for picnicking, passive recreation and access to natural areas.
- As population age groups fluctuate, keep communication lines open with the local sports groups and monitor the supply / condition of athletic facilities such as:
  - Soccer
  - Football
  - Basketball
  - Softball
  - Baseball - particularly lighted facilities.
- Consider amenities/facilities not currently offered, such as:
  - pickle ball courts (full time)
  - adventure playgrounds
  - climbing walls
  - BMX bike tracks
  - Radio control model facilities
  - Improved community skate parks and neighborhood skate areas
- Frisbee golf
- Mini-golf
- Paintball and clay target shooting courses
- Continue to develop and expand partnerships with the local sports groups, parochial schools, and public school districts to better utilize local funds and open space for the benefit of the community.
- Work with neighborhood groups to identify needed local park improvements and amenities.
- Work closely with the county and state to develop linking trails to park sites and communities. Continue partnerships for multi-use sites and look for new opportunities, potentially along the river to open it for public use and create recreation amenities that celebrate its history.
- Establish a ‘Park’ classification in the Zoning code to allow for ease of future acquisitions and park developments.
- Establish a ‘Boulevard’ classification for lands that are not suitable for parks, even if they had been accepted for that purpose. As an example, Gucker ‘Park’ is an open space that cannot function safely as a park, but could potentially count against the city in both distribution, and acreage should an OSLAD grant be sought.
- Utilize the Park Foundation to approach private business and supportive park patrons for sponsorship, donations and fundraisers to bring in additional funding for park projects. As a 501(c)3 corporation, donations made to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Support of the Foundation directly enhances the programs and facilities of the Recreation Department and the City’s parks.

## Maintenance and Management

- Work with public and parochial school district(s) to renovate adjacent open space and review current use agreements for betterment of the taxpayer and resident. Suggest maintenance of fields, or perhaps entire sites in a swap for usage.
- Study potential methods of reducing vandalism to parks and equipment, including safety patrols and park ambassador programs.
- Look at additional means of cooperation with Police to monitor parks – possible create a part-time ‘Park Ambassador’ program utilizing local teachers. The goal is to demonstrate care about parks, and the people that use them. Often children will respond better to non-official mentoring than uniformed law enforcement.
- Pursue a separate maintenance division for the Parks Department to promote responsiveness and efficiency. Develop maintenance routines and programs that insure care of the parks is a priority in the city.
- Involve maintenance staff in decision making and plan review of new development or re-developments.
- Ensure public is involved in final design process for park developments.
- Utilize quality recreation products and materials in park development to enhance sustainability and reduce longterm maintenance cost.

## Financial Resources

The end of the Plan discusses priorities and potential development costs in a 5 year development plan. Budget planning has been made utilizing existing and forecasted budgets, as well as major funding assistance sources available to the Recreation Department. The Parks

Master Plan will be an integral part of future grant applications and successes.



## **SECTION 2**

# **PARK DESCRIPTIONS and CLASSIFICATIONS**

## **OPEN SPACE CATEGORIES**

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The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) states that: “Open space provides more than recreational opportunities; it is land that society needs to conserve as natural, cultural, historic, and agricultural resources. One of the most common misconceptions regarding open space and recreation is that the two terms are synonymous. A strong relationship does exist between open space and outdoor recreation but, in most cases, recreation is something separate and distinct from open space.”

**Therefore, a park is open space, but open space is not necessarily a park.**

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) has developed six categories of open space. It is recommended that the City of Monticello simplify into three recognized categories. A park should serve at least one of the following characteristics.

- a. **ENVIRONMENTAL CAPACITY** - protects natural and or cultural resources from development.
- b. **SHAPING CAPACITY** - provides relief from extensive urbanization and promotes the integration of neighborhoods. City, county, state, and federal planning agencies usually define this land as “land that shapes a community and is reflected in greenbelts, county forest preserves, state, and national parks.” This category is also reflected in local ordinances stipulating density formulas and open space requirements for subdivisions.
- c. **RECREATIONAL CAPACITY** - provides space for single or multiple, active and passive recreation activities

The acquisition and development of park land should fall into one of the categories or the project may be out of the goals of the City mission statement.

## **PARK CATEGORIES**

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Who should provide Parks and Recreation facilities?

### **Regional Lands**

The State of Illinois, in its Strategic Comprehensive Open Space Plan (SCORP), recognizes that the preservation of open space for active, passive, and natural resource preservation is a multi-pronged effort, needing commitment and cooperation from all levels of government. The State seeks to develop and protect areas of large size and primary significance on a statewide level, where large budgets and crossing political boundaries are needed. Regional efforts are to be met by the Piatt County Forest Preserve.

### **Local Lands**

The SCORP recognizes that park districts and municipal agencies provide a system of local land - 91,884 acres statewide - that directly serve communities. Local parks include a wide range of facilities for outdoor recreation, such as ball fields and sport courts, playgrounds and picnic areas, trails, swimming pools, and golf courses. Local park lands provide important green spaces in communities, often preserving features of the original community and buffering and adding to newly developing areas of communities. Most importantly, locally-provided lands are close to where people live, offering opportunities for regular recreational activities which are part of a healthy lifestyle.

## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

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The City's responsibilities pertain to the local recreation classifications. To this end, the city formally adopts the following classifications, which are:

**1. Mini-Parks** – The mini-park is used to serve isolated or limited recreational needs. Mini-parks are often tot lots; created to serve a resident population too distant from a community park, or in an area with high density populations. The mini-park is approximately ¼ to 1 acre in size. Development is usually limited, requiring no parking or extensive site work. An example of a mini-park is Rotary Park. Gucker Park, although small enough to fit this category, does not provide any amenities and is essentially a garden space. It is neither accessible, nor safe for use as it is wedged in-between 3 streets.

**2. Neighborhood Parks** - The neighborhood park is sized between 2 and 7 acres. It is developed for children through the sixth grade and is intended as a supplement to or substitute for a play lot where population density, geographic barriers or distance preclude easy access. Examples of such facilities include play apparatus areas for pre-school and elementary children, hard surface areas for hopscotch, shuffleboard, tetherball, four-square and court games for basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc., and open play areas for softball, football, soccer, and winter sports. Development emphasizes spontaneous rather than higher organized play. The playground should be easily accessible to pedestrian use. Examples of neighborhood parks in Monticello are Burgess, Nicks, and Gucker Parks..

Neighborhood parks may also be combined with school sites. Although any classification of park can be combined with a school, the age and activities of users makes it preferable that neighborhood parks and elementary schools

are the most desirable combination. Athletic Parks are more commonly associated with Junior High Schools, where the advantage of multiple athletic fields for public as well as school use comes to play. The facilities should represent the functional needs of each agency, with the intent of satisfying one or more of the following requirements:

(1) to avoid duplication of land and facilities unless existing facilities are over utilized;  
(2) coordination of services, and  
(3) to diminish capital expenditures and needs of each agency. Development should be similar to the neighborhood park.

**3. Community Parks** - The community park is sized between 7 and 40 acres, and development is intended for people of all ages. It is preferred that the park be centrally located and serve at least four neighborhoods. Amenities found in a neighborhood park are included, and then supplemented by large open spaces for athletic games and organized sports. Internal walk patterns are desirable to connect the various functions, as well as providing pedestrian and bicycle paths. Adequate off-street parking should be provided in accordance with functions constructed. It should be accessible by motorized and non-motorized traffic. The classification may also serve as a neighborhood park facility for the area in which it is located. Burke park is an example.

**4. Sports Complex** - The sports complex is sized between 16 – 75 acres. It is developed to meet the needs of specific user groups and local athletic associations - for practice, team, and tournament play. These sites have adequate parking and are located on good traffic routes. They may also be located to take advantage of bicycle and pedestrian trail systems. Fields should be as multipurpose as possible, so a wide variety of flexibility can be maintained. Due to ambient noise, traffic, and potential sports lighting, athletic parks are not recommended to be located in the center of residential

areas. In fact, sports complexes should be the solution to the typical problems caused by using neighborhood parks for competitive athletics. Lastly, it is best to allow for additional space when acquiring community park space, as needs and trends are subject to constant change. Wilkey Sports Complex could be considered a Sports Complex, as well as the planned Multi-sports Park.

5. **Special Use Parks** - Special use parks are intended for single interest activities and are large enough to accommodate the demand, therefore size can vary from 1 to 50 acres. They may be separate from, or a part of all park classifications; or a previous classification type may be a part of a special use park. Examples are tennis centers, outdoor education centers, museums, conservatories, golf courses and practice centers, children's farm, sports complexes, skate parks, splash / spray parks, swimming pool / aquatic centers, etc. Since users are going to be drawn from a distance, the site should be near major vehicular access routes and bike trails. Again, space for expansion is desired during acquisition planning. The driving range is an example of a Special Use Park.
  
6. **Natural Resource (Linear Greenways / Trail systems)** - The Natural Resource Park (or area) is utilized as a buffer zone, watershed, or conservation area and affords a passive appearance with managed natural habitats and plant ecosystems. These areas can be used to protect fragile or rare ecosystems. Sizes range most often range between 20 to 99 acres. Smaller areas may prove useful in special situations. Often these areas require skilled management to maintain sustainability and preserve healthy biodiversity of plant life. The County forest preserves typically fill this role for the City at the present time. However, realization of the Sangamon River Trail Plan can offer significant benefits o tourism and economic growth in the community and should be encouraged in any long term plan.

When utilized as a linear greenbelt and / or trail corridor, natural areas can serve as environmental bridges, supporting the movement of wildlife between other larger areas. When combined with public use areas, greenbelts are usually lined with maintained turf areas, and development can include open play areas, pedestrian and bicycle paths, park benches, picnic and rest areas, and water oriented facilities. It is quite common to see detention / retention basins included in these areas. In instances where this classification of park is flood prone, construction of permanent structures is discouraged. The public use infrastructure should remain supplementary to the functional classification of lands described.

## Park Classifications Summary

Classification Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Desirable Site Characteristics	
Mini Park	Specialized Facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	¼ mile radius	¼ to 1 acre	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing of the elderly
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for intense  Such as multipurpose Athletic fields, court Games, playground area Skating, picnicking, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius	2 – 7 acres	Suited for intense recreation activities development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and bike access.
Community Park Area	suited for athletic complexes, large facilities and outdoor and indoor recreation areas, swimming pools	2-3 mile radius	7- 40 acres	May include natural features such as water bodies. Easily accessible For large group activities, may include concessions, restrooms and parking.
Sports Complex	Serving a single main Purpose of athletic Recreation / tournaments	2- 8 mile radius	16 – 75 acres	Specifically designed for athletic recreation. Includes concession stand, restrooms, and parking.
Special Use	Target use facilities	½ mile – 1 mile	1 – 50 acres	Potential tourist attraction, destination site - i.e. skate parks, ice skate rinks, historical, cultural or social sites may include washrooms, concession, parking,
Natural Resource	Land designated for Preservation, interpretive Education, open space	8 – 20 mile radius	20 - 99 acres	Natural preserved areas May include wetlands, tourist attractions, destination points

## **SECTION 3**

# **PARK BENCHMARKING and ANALYSIS / PUBLIC INPUT**

## CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2010 Census Report, the median age of Monticello has become younger, with a mildly growing population.

Census Year	Median Age	Population
2000	41.7	5138
2010	42.7	5548

Looking forward, the population is expected to remain stable, or grow at a slow rate similar to the 8% growth experienced since 2000.

	2000		2010	
Under age 5	309	6.0%	313	5.6%
Age 5 – 9	330	6.4%	368	6.6%
Age 10-14	336	6.5%	397	7.2%
Age 15-19	347	6.8%	361	6.5%
Age 20-44	1547	30.1%	1502	27.1%
Age 45 – 59	989	22.0%	1196	21.6%
Age 60 - 84	1104	17.0%	1241	22.3%
Age 85 & Over	176	3.4%	170	3.1

## HOUSING ANALYSIS

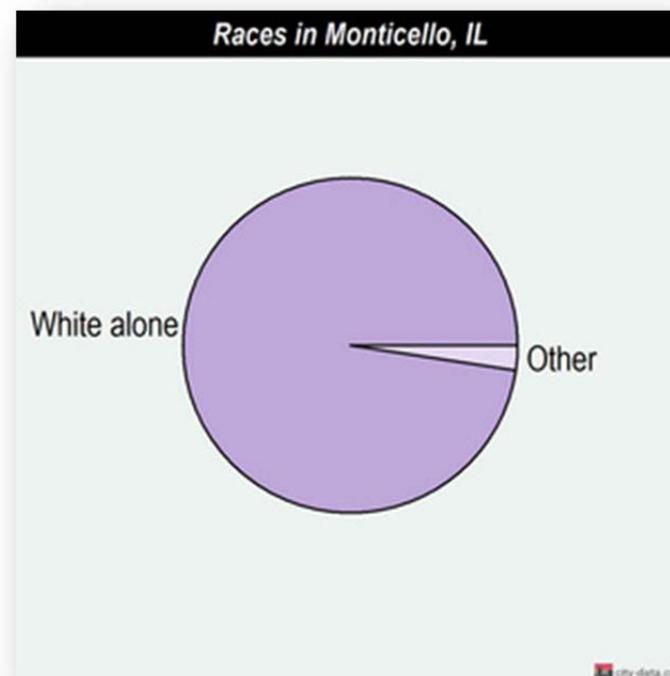
Housing statistics in Monticello show a slow growth rate over the past 10 years, and is it not expected to change significantly in the future. Owner occupied units are down slightly, possibly indicating the stagnant economy and loss of homes to foreclosure. A table summary of the pertinent housing statistics follows:

	2000		2010	
Total # Housing Units	2226	100%	2492	100%
Total Occupied Units	2146	96.4%	2332	93.6
# Owner Occupied Housing Units	1691	78.8%	1830	78.5%
# Occupied Rental Units	455	21.2%	502	21.5%
Av. Household Size	2.34		2.37	
Owner Occupied	2.5		2.47	
Rental Occupied	1.76		1.97	
Population in Owner Occupied Units	4227	77.8%	4528	81.6%
Population in Rental Occupied Units	800	22.2%	988	18.4%
Av. Family Size	2.91		2.9	

Data Collected from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

## ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

• White alone	5,379 (97.0%)
• Two or more races	52 (0.9%)
• Hispanic	50 (0.9%)
• Asian alone	31 (0.6%)
• Black alone	26 (0.5%)
• American Indian alone	7 (0.1%)
• Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	2 (0.04%)
• Other race alone	1 (0.02%)



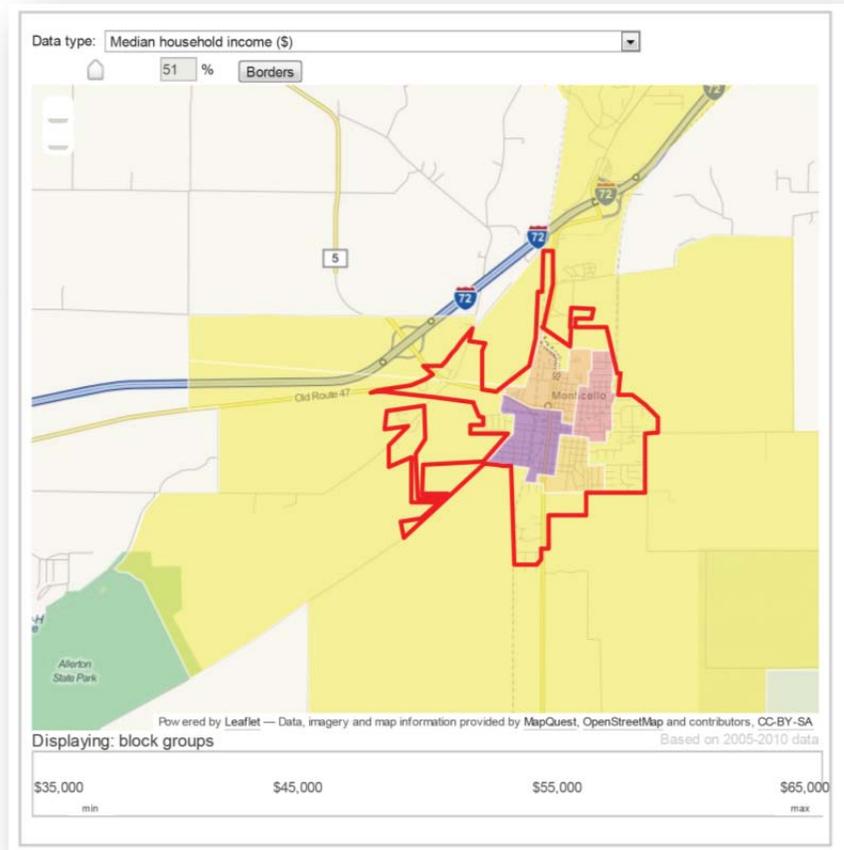
## ECONOMICS

Monticello and the surrounding areas are a moderately affluent demographic with a healthy mix of middle and upper middle class citizens. The city tax base is predominately residential with limited commercial and industrial property taxes. Statistical markers follow:

	Monticello	State
Median Household Income - 2009	\$55,883	\$53,966
Av. 2009 Property Tax	\$2,161	\$2,285
Est. House/Condo Value	\$146,504	\$202,200
Avg. Rent – 2009	\$633	
Cost of Living Index	87.1	100 U.S.

Data Collected from [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com) & <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

National downturn in the real estate market has slowed new residential development in Monticello. Good long range planning and public support of a two and three generation based community will help maintain the area's economic stability. Investment on services and public infrastructure, particularly family recreation opportunities, will create a desirable community in which to live.



## LAND DEVELOPMENT

Monticello is a rural community located in central Illinois. It is approximately 30 minutes southwest of Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois. It is also near Decatur and Bloomington-Normal, home of Illinois State University. The city has a mix of developments, including single and multi-family, estate residential, and farmettes. Housing stock varies, with several newer single family residential subdivisions underway.

There are several nearby attractions, including the Railroad Museum, Allerton Park, ELI Radio-controlled airfield, and the historic Lincoln Trail.

## SUMMARY

As the City tries to attract residents and more business, the quality of park and recreation will play an important role in portraying Monticello as a nice place to live and work. Parks and recreation programs repeatedly are shown to increase property values and quality of life values.



## FINANCIAL

Following is the 2012 - 2014 budgets showing Recreation Department Income across programming and other revenue sources.

### RECREATION INCOME

	<b>Final</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
	<b>FY 12 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 13 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
POOL RECEIPTS/FAMILY PASSES	63,780	60,000	34,924	60,000
POOL RECEIPTS/INDIVIDUAL PASSES	8,020	6,000	6,755	6,500
POOL RECEIPTS/SWIM LESSONS	10,740	12,000	10,990	12,000
POOL RECEIPTS/POOL PARTIES	7,285	10,000	7,600	10,000
POOL RECEIPTS/DAILY ATTENDANCE	39,111	35,000	35,558	35,000
CONCESSIONS--POOL	20,244	25,000	22,932	25,000
RECREATION FEES/SWIM TEAM	4,225	4,000	4,855	4,500
<b>TOTAL POOL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>153,405</b>	<b>152,000</b>	<b>123,614</b>	<b>153,000</b>
REC PARTICIPATION/BASEBALL	20,641	8,500	10,272	9,000
RECREATION FEES/SOFTBALL	11,670	12,150	9,595	12,150
RECREATION FEES/T-BALL-PEANUT	5,750	5,800	5,730	5,800
REC RECEIPTS/GOLF LESSONS	1,400	1,600	1,270	1,600
REC RECEIPTS/SOCCER	13,277	14,000	10,960	14,000
EASTER EGG HUNT	118	300	113	300
LIVINGSTON CENTER PROGRAMS	786	2,500	2,738	2,500
PARTICIPANT'S FEE/VOLLEYBALL	198	300	161	00
PARTICIPANT'S FEE/JR FOOTBALL	7,215	8,000	6,350	8,000

OUTDOOR RECREATION FARMING LEASE	12,280	7,600	7,685	-
<b>TOTAL RECREATION PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>73,335</b>	<b>60,750</b>	<b>54,874</b>	<b>53,650</b>
DRIVING RANGE RECEIPTS	3,622	5,000	2,547	5,000
MOVIE TIME RECEIPTS	-	3,000	2,101	2,400
CONCESSIONS--BASEBALL	12,800	12,500	13,085	13,000
<b>TOTAL MISC. RECREATION</b>	<b>16,422</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>17,733</b>	<b>20,400</b>

<b>RECREATION DEPARTMENT</b>				
	<b>Final</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 12 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 13 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
SALARIES	\$ 129,234	\$ 133,000	\$ 126,092	\$ 122,000
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 18,332	\$ 21,700	\$ 18,149	\$ 20,000
NON-INSURANCE BENEFITS	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 120	\$ 2,000
GROUP INSURANCE	<u>\$ 15,350</u>	<u>\$ 16,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,420</u>	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
<b>TOTAL RECREATION PERSONNEL EXP.</b>	<b>\$ 162,916</b>	<b>\$ 172,700</b>	<b>\$ 158,781</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES</b>				
FUEL	\$ 2,573	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,011	\$ 3,000
SUPPLIES	\$ 3,206	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,003	\$ 3,500
CONCESSIONS RECREATION	<u>\$ 7,935</u>	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,161</u>	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$ 13,714</b>	<b>\$ 14,500</b>	<b>\$ 11,175</b>	<b>\$ 14,000</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$ 13,068</b>	<b>\$ 25,300</b>	<b>\$ 9,622</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>				
MAINTENANCE/VEHICLES-EQUIP	\$ 1,058	\$ 1,500	\$ 415	\$ 1,500
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	\$ 635	\$ 1,000	\$ 917	\$ 1,000
COMPUTER NETWORK MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,725	\$ 1,500	\$ 968	\$ 1,500
NICK'S PARK MAINTENANCE	\$ 881	\$ 1,500	\$ 56	\$ 1,500
BURKE PARK MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,472	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,836	\$ 5,000

TRAIL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE	\$ 193	\$ 1,000	\$ 38	\$ 1,000
BALL DIAMONDS MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,292	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,523	\$ 3,000
GOLF RANGE MAINTENANCE	<u>\$ 1,184</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>	<u>\$ 443</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$ 10,440</b>	<b>\$ 18,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,196</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>				
UTILITIES-PHONE/LL	\$ 410	\$ 500	\$ 427	\$ 500
UTILITIES-PHONE-RANGE	\$ 367	\$ 400	\$ 364	\$ 400
UTILITIES/CELL PHONE	\$ 720	\$ 720	\$ 720	\$ 720
UTILITIES-PARKS-ELEC. ETC.	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,700
UTILITIES-ELEC. ETC-LL	\$ 1,835	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,121	\$ 2,500
UTILITIES-ELEC. ETC-SCHOOL	\$ 1,827	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,669	\$ 5,000
UTILITIES-ELEC. ETC-RANGE	<u>\$ 1,834</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,810</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
<b>TOTAL UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 8,506</b>	<b>\$ 12,320</b>	<b>\$ 8,656</b>	<b>\$ 12,820</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>				
ANNUAL RECREATION BROCHURE	\$ 4,162	\$ 4,200	\$ 3,862	\$ 4,200
LIVINGSTON CENTER YOUTH PROGRAMS	\$ 789	\$ 1,500	\$ 530	\$ 1,500
MOVIE TIME - OUTDOOR MOVIE PROGRAM	\$ 6,657	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,376	\$ 2,400
EAGLE SCOUTS	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
BASEBALL	\$ 5,037	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,466	\$ 7,500
SOFTBALL	\$ 8,747	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,592	\$ 7,500
T-BALL	\$ 2,210	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,957	\$ 2,500
SUMMER SINGERS	\$ 1,184	\$ 550	\$ 275	\$ 550

EASTER EGG HUNT	\$ 372	\$ 400	\$ 409	\$ 400
GOLF	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,424	\$ 1,500
FOOTBALL	\$ 3,413	\$ 3,800	\$ 2,763	\$ 3,800
SOCCER	\$ 3,425	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,727	\$ 4,000
HALLOWEEN EVENT	\$ 269	\$ 300	\$ 294	\$ 300
VOLLEYBALL	\$ 176	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
CHRISTMAS COLORING EVENT	\$ 149	\$ 200	\$ 198	\$ 200
SENIOR PROGRAMS	<u>\$ 1,227</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,232</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 39,353</b>	<b>\$ 37,050</b>	<b>\$ 31,105</b>	<b>\$ 38,450</b>
<b>TRAVEL &amp; MEETINGS</b>	<b>\$ 1,343</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,191</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 86,424</b>	<b>\$ 109,670</b>	<b>\$ 70,945</b>	<b>\$ 102,770</b>
<b>TOTAL RECREATION PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 249,340</b>	<b>\$ 282,370</b>	<b>\$ 229,726</b>	<b>\$ 262,770</b>
<b>AQUATIC CENTER</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 12 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 13 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
SALARIES	\$ 69,370	\$ 90,000	\$ 72,270	\$ 89,300
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 5,792	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,685	\$ 9,500
NON-INSURANCE BENEFITS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GROUP INSURANCE	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>TOTAL AQ. CENTER PERSONNEL EXP.</b>	<b>\$ 75,162</b>	<b>\$ 97,500</b>	<b>\$ 78,955</b>	<b>\$ 98,800</b>

<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>				
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES				
CHEMICALS	\$ 14,993	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,274	\$ 19,000
CONCESSIONS	<u>\$ 15,431</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,488</u>	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT &amp; SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$ 30,424</b>	<b>\$ 33,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,762</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$ 3,020</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,723</b>	<b>\$ 3,500</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>				
UTILITIES-TELEPHONE	\$ 575	\$ 750	\$ 548	\$ 750
UTILITIES-GAS, ELECTRICITY, WATER	<u>\$ 13,858</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,653</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
<b>TOTAL UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 14,433</b>	<b>\$ 20,750</b>	<b>\$ 15,201</b>	<b>\$ 20,750</b>
<b>PROGRAMS</b>				
POOL PROGRAMS	\$ 4,898	\$ 16,500	\$ 11,876	\$ 10,000
SWIM TEAM	<u>\$ 1,609</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 256</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 6,507</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>	<b>\$ 12,132</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>
<b>TOTAL AQUATIC CENTER OPERATING EXPEN.</b>	<b>\$ 54,384</b>	<b>\$ 74,250</b>	<b>\$ 61,818</b>	<b>\$ 71,250</b>
<b>TOTAL AQUATIC CENTER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 129,546</b>	<b>\$ 171,750</b>	<b>\$ 140,773</b>	<b>\$ 170,050</b>
<b>TOTAL PARKS, RECREATION &amp; AC</b>	<b>\$ 378,886</b>	<b>\$ 454,120</b>	<b>\$ 370,499</b>	<b>\$ 432,820</b>

Following are the line item budgets for park improvements. It can be seen that recreation projects are slated along with street projects and are funded out of the General Fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	
	<b>FY 12 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 13 Y/E</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	
<b>STREET &amp; TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS</b>					
DOWNTOWN ALLEY REHABILITATION PROGRAM	-	-	-	35,000	Main St Pub/True Value
STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	-	19,000	18,451	-	
TRANSPORTATION IMPRV PROJ - MTIP	188,245	151,000	438	118,000	Final (See summary at end)
PARKING LOT REHABILITATION PROGRAM	-	-	-	-	Subway - 90,000
FOXFIELD CUL-DE-SAC(S) PROJECT	102,606	-	-	-	
HETTINGER COURT REPLACEMENT PROJECT	-	70,000	62,506	-	
COUNTY FARM ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT	-	15,000	13,820	-	
TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN STUDY	-	5,000	4,456	-	
<b>RECREATION</b>					
WASHINGTON/BUCHANAN PARK	-	5,000	2,051	-	drink fountain 2500
BIKE TRAIL WEST - CFR TO LIBRARY	-	-	-	75,000	acquisition
BIKE TRAIL EAST - BUCHANAN TO GREELEY	-	33,500	1,938	-	fence 10,000
OUTDOOR REC. FACILITY PROJECT	16,632	20,000	5,325	175,000	ph. 1, rough grade, detention
BIKE TRAIL WEST - SURFACING	-	72,000	66,390	-	
1 MILLION POOL BOND PAYMENT	-	-	-	-	moved to TIF

GAZEBO ROOF REPLACEMENT	-	7,500	1,869	-	
OUTDOOR RECREATION DESIGN	-	20,000	13,578	-	
OUTDOOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION	-	20,000	-	-	
POOL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION	4,970	-	-	-	
<b>OTHER</b>					
HIGH SPEED FIBER OPTIC PROJECT	-	25,000	25,000	80,000	60,000 const, 20,000 s/u, equip.
COMPREHENSIVE, STRATEGIC, D-TOWN PLAN	-	-	-	50,000	
PIATT COUNTY MUSEUM INFRASTRUCUTRE	-	-	-	5,000	Engineering & permitting
PIATT COUNTY MUSEUM INFRASTRUCUTRE	-	-	-	-	Construction
RADIO REPLACEMENT/SIREN UPGRADE	9,600	-	-	-	
MIDDLE SCHOOL DETENTION PROJECT	<u>181,641</u>	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>503,694</b>	<b>463,000</b>	<b>215,822</b>	<b>538,000</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM</b>	<b>92,451</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>170,211</b>	<b>25,500</b>	2 pymts > this year
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,604,475</b>	<b>4,054,263</b>	<b>3,744,271</b>	<b>4,152,908</b>	
<b>NET REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>155,289</b>	<b>(299,013)</b>	<b>266,280</b>	<b>1,344,642</b>	
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE 04.30.14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,344,642</b>	

<b><u>GENERAL FUND SUMMARY</u></b>					w/o Cap Imp & Equip
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>3,759,764</b>	<b>3,755,250</b>	<b>4,010,551</b>	<b>3,901,950</b>	3,901,950
<b>TOTAL O&amp;M EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,982,321</b>	<b>3,387,263</b>	<b>3,231,725</b>	<b>3,579,908</b>	3,579,908
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>622,154</b>	<b>667,000</b>	<b>512,546</b>	<b>573,000</b>	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,604,475</b>	<b>4,054,263</b>	<b>3,744,271</b>	<b>4,152,908</b>	-
<b>REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>155,289</b>	<b>(299,013)</b>	<b>266,280</b>	<b>(250,958)</b>	322,042

## PARK FACILITY ANALYSIS

The first table below illustrates the current park land and amenities within the Monticello area, both county and municipal.

LOCATION / PARK TYPE	Acres	Pool	Picnic Area	Baseball Field	Football Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Sledding	Sand Volleyball Courts	Bike /H/ Trails	Golf	Fishing	Playground Area
<b>MINI PARKS</b>														
Rotary Centennial Park	0.09		1											
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>														
Burgess Park	0.45													
Gucker Park	0.1													
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>														
Nicks Park	0.5		1											1
Burke Park	5.87	1	1				2	1		1				1
<b>LINEAR / SPECIAL USE</b>														
Monticello Golf Course	63.38		1						1			1	1	
Wilkey Sports Complex	47.05			3										
Rec.Driving Range / Landfill Are	53			2								1		
Bike Trails (1.6 miles)			1								2			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>170.44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OTHER PUBLIC OPEN AREA</b>														
Allerton Park	1000		3						1		10		2	
Lodge Park	500		5								4		1	1
Monticello Public Schools	57		3	4	2	8		6		0				3
Piatt County Forest Preserve	15		2	2										1
Valentine Park	15		3								3			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1587</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,757.44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

The following table presents a comparison of outdoor recreation facilities between the City of Monticello and the State of Illinois averages, which have been derived from Illinois Department of Natural Resources research. Current facility holdings are presented, along with deficiencies that would bring the Recreation Department up to the minimum average. It should be assumed that the IDNR uses these comparisons in their evaluations of grant applications. Thus, the argument can be made that if the District satisfies facility averages, there needs to be other compelling reasons, such as renovation, enhancement, or relocation, in order to submit successful grant applications.

These numbers should be interpreted as informational only. Statewide averages do not incorporate population or budgetary issues. Some governmental units in the survey may have different recreational goals or different financial resources than Community. Additionally, the physical condition of the equipment surveyed is not documented, thereby providing no basis for evaluating quality of facilities against each other. Useful life tables are useful in evaluating whether a facility may be due for replacement or upgrading (See Appendix A).

Finally, the sizes of some of the facilities amenities are not detailed. Using skate parks as an example, although quantitatively meeting the average, a specific park may not fulfill the physical requirements of size, or challenge desired by users.

So what use is the table? The chart provides some measure of the types of facilities and their quantities found in Park Departments throughout the State of Illinois, and indicates suggestions for the types of amenities necessary in the future for the City of Monticello. This chart is also used by the IDNR to evaluate need for OSLAD and other Grant applications.



## **PARK ACREAGE STANDARDS**

Prior to 1996, urban planners and the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) generally agreed that there should be a minimum allotment of one acre of park land for each 100 of the population in the urban area, or 10 acres of total park land per 1,000 residents in any community nationwide. Acreage allotment standards were further broken down, stating that a minimum of 2.5 acres of mini and neighborhood parks should be provided for each 1,000 people of a specified geographic neighborhood. This balance of 7.5 acres per thousand residents would result in equal distribution of the parks throughout the entire community. Additional acreage requirements would be met by regional park systems and forest preserves. The Statewide Outdoor Recreation Partnership Plan for Illinois does make a statement about regional resource-based recreation lands, noting an average of 49 acres per 1000 residents.

The national standard methodology was revised in mid-1996. Because of new trends in local recreation service, the revisions move away from the previous subjective standards and incorporate a new strategy, referred to as Level of Service, or LOS. This highly scientific research tool measures actual facility and park usage and translates these trends into new growth area projections. Thus, the strict standard of acreage per 1,000 people is being deemphasized. According to the NRPA, research has shown that few communities believe the old system to be truly useful. Also, logic would dictate that facility supply be based on demand. (For example, if few people in the community play tennis, there is no good reason for providing 1 court for every 2,000 people.)

NRPA now advocates that local providers must review classifications of leisure events, needs, and park space as they specifically impact their individual communities. Only using greater research and feedback received through a public participation needs assessment, can the Recreation Department be confident about specific facilities that are needed. This methodology requires a commitment by the City to

implement a public survey system every couple of years, and to hold continual meetings with neighborhood areas to meet recreation expectations.

Another note to using a strict land requirement based on a table is that the tables merely measure that quantitative amount of park land. There is no consideration of the physical distribution of park land throughout the community. Therefore, land requirements should be cross referenced with the spatial mapping and planning area research.

## **PROPOSED ACREAGE STANDARD**

In the meantime, the City should adopt a Park Acreage Standard that is more reflective of a revitalized commitment to providing recreation facilities. The community has expressed its appreciation for low taxes, and has not called for the City to pursue expensive properties acquisitions. From public meetings and input, the community is relatively satisfied with current land holdings, and is looking for updates in equipment and better park design. The Plan recommends that the City adopt an acreage Standard of **10.0 acres per thousand** residents. This quantity is supportive of existing parks, but reflects a need to expand existing parks where possible.

				Req'd. by State Wide Avg.	Proposed Standard	Required Acreage per Proposed standard	
	<b>City of Monticello POPULATION</b>		<b>Existing acreage</b>	<b>11.35 AC. / 1000</b>	<b>10 AC. / 1000</b>	<b>10 AC. / 1000</b>	<b>Current Surplus / (Deficiency) on Proposed</b>
			<b>5,548</b>	<b>5,548</b>			
	<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>0.55 acres</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>12.59396</b>	<b>2 ac / 1000</b>	<b>11.096</b>	<b>-10.546</b>
	<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>36.3 acres</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>50.37584</b>	<b>8 ac / 1000</b>	<b>44.384</b>	<b>-8.084</b>
	<b>Special Use Parks</b>	<b>53 acres</b>		<b>0</b>			
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>89.85 acres</b>	<b>36.85</b>	<b>62.9698</b>		<b>55.48</b>	<b>-18.63</b>
	<b>Burgess Park is included as a neighborhood park.</b>						
	<b>The future sports complex (acquired), Burke and Nick's Park were included as community parks.</b>						
	<b>The driving range / open space is included as a Special Use Park.</b>						

The above chart shows that the City is deficient in neighborhood and community / athletic parks. The table also assumes that the proposed Multi-sports park is developed, so it is inherent that the City begin development planning as soon as possible. Neighborhood parkland requirements are short by over 10 acres, and community parks are short by over 9 acres. Special facilities are in sufficient quantity, especially when looking at the recommended number of facilities in the preceding table.

Along with this information, it must also be highlighted that the population is young, as evidenced by the census data. This translates into a higher need for athletic and active recreation facilities than currently exists, indicating a need for additional, or better utilized athletic park land.

If this is true, then funding can be diverted away from acquisition efforts and directed at supplementing the low capital project budgets. A park land standard of 10.0 acres is in line with current provided acreage. More detailed usage surveys should be run per the new NRPA Level of Service methodology.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – PLANNING AREA ANALYSIS

Following are general statements for each of the recreation planning areas in the City. Reference the statements against the following maps. It is recommended that each area have further analysis for suitability.

### Planning Area NW:

- The City should continue efforts to promote on-road and off-road bike trails linking the area to the remainder of the community.
- The City should locate suitable property for the location of a neighborhood park of at least 3 acres.
- Develop a public recreation area along the Sangamon River, tying to the southwest and the bike bridge. Amenities could include a trail, canoe access, fishing, historic and natural interpretive signage, group meeting sites, bar-be-que areas.

### Planning Area NE:

- The City should continue efforts to promote on-road and off-road bike trails linking the area to the remainder of the community.
- Improve Nick's Park
- Provide new park space as residential development occurs easterly from the current borders.

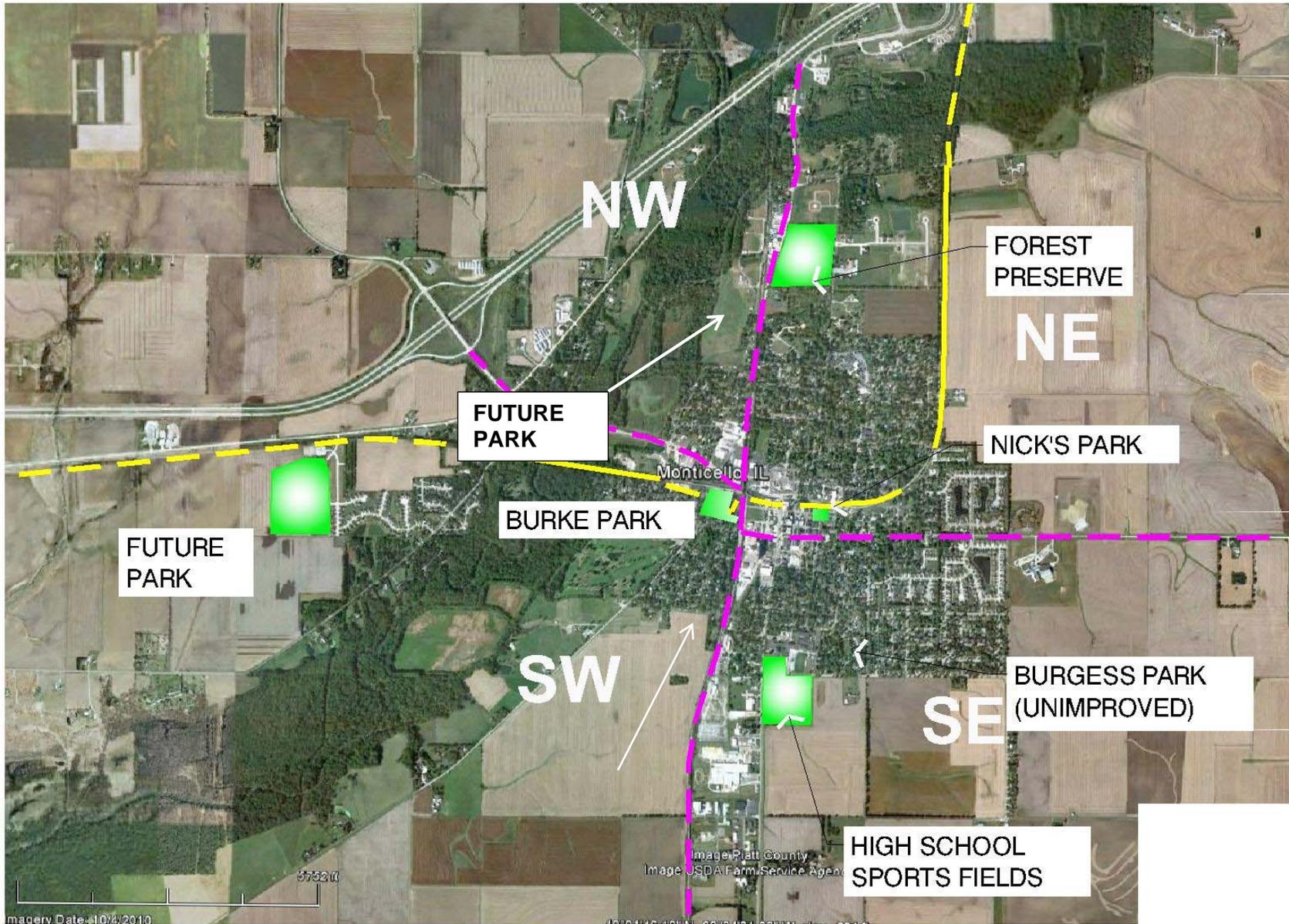
### Planning Area SW:

- Complete development of the new Multi-Use Sports park as soon as possible.
- The City should continue efforts to promote on-road and off-road bike trails linking the area to the remainder of the community.

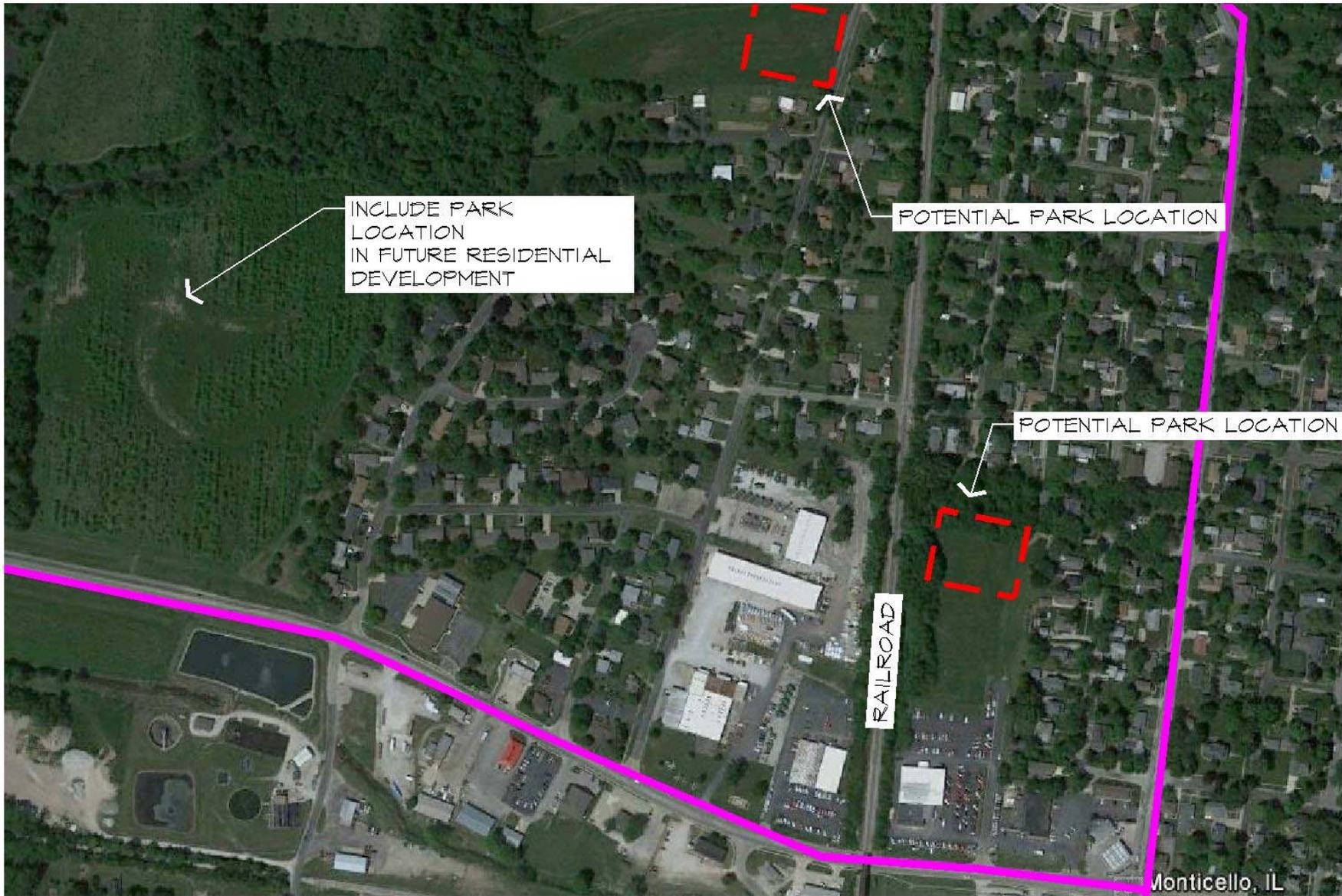
- Develop a public recreational area that celebrates the Sangamon River with connecting trails, educational opportunities, and river access.
- Plan for better utilization of the Driving range property, possibly including new amenities.
- Redesign Burke park for better accessibility, and family recreation. Replace playground with a new nature themed 'Tree Fort'.

### Planning Area SE:

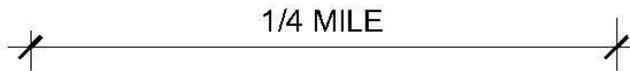
- Discuss renovation of high school tennis courts, perhaps adding additional courts and lights to serve a high school tennis team and community needs.
- Purchase a lot along Burgess Park that will allow for public access and better utilization of the site. Construct neighborhood playground.
- Provide new park space as residential development occurs easterly from the current borders.



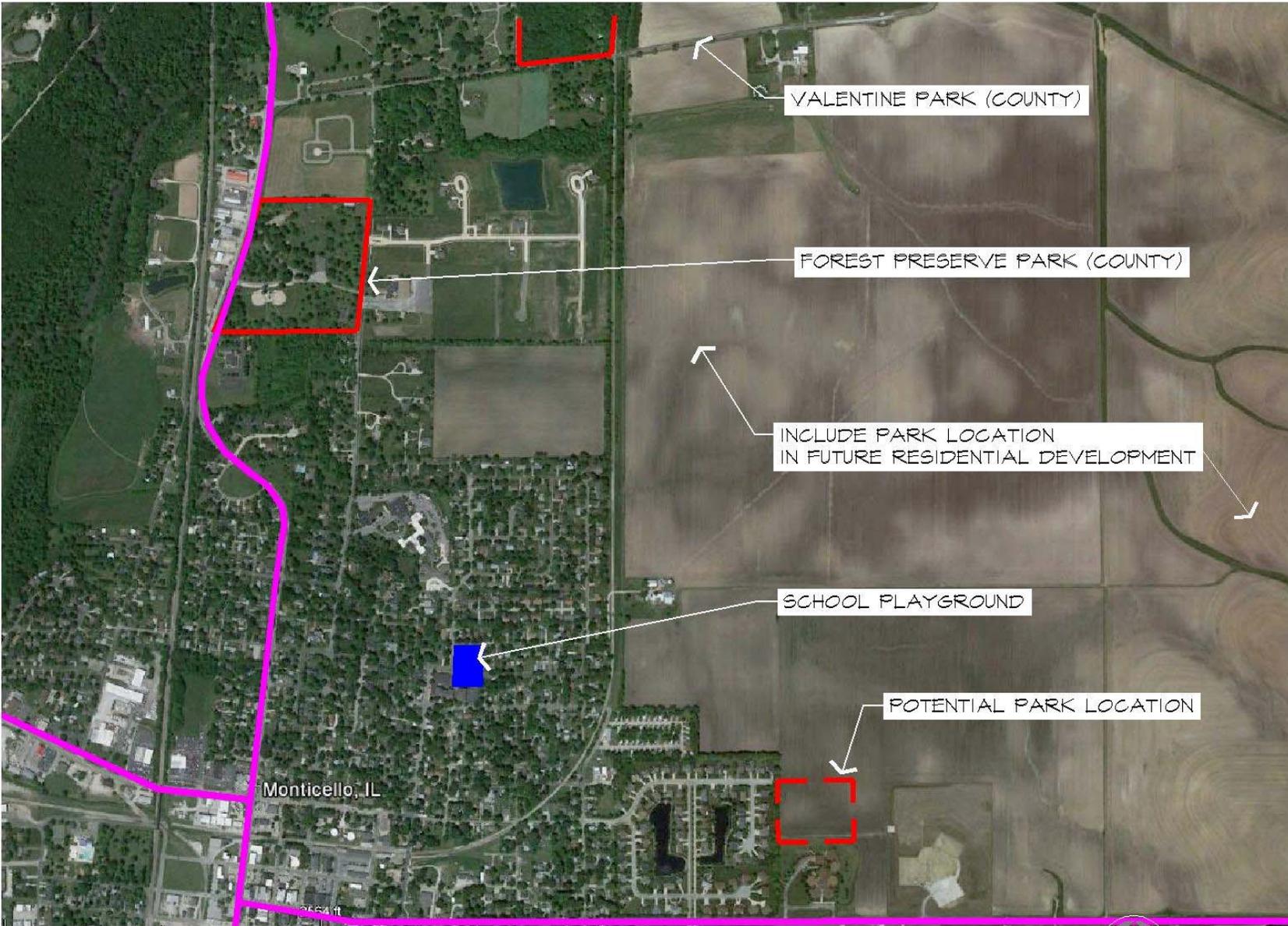
**PLANNING AREAS**



NW PLANNING AREA

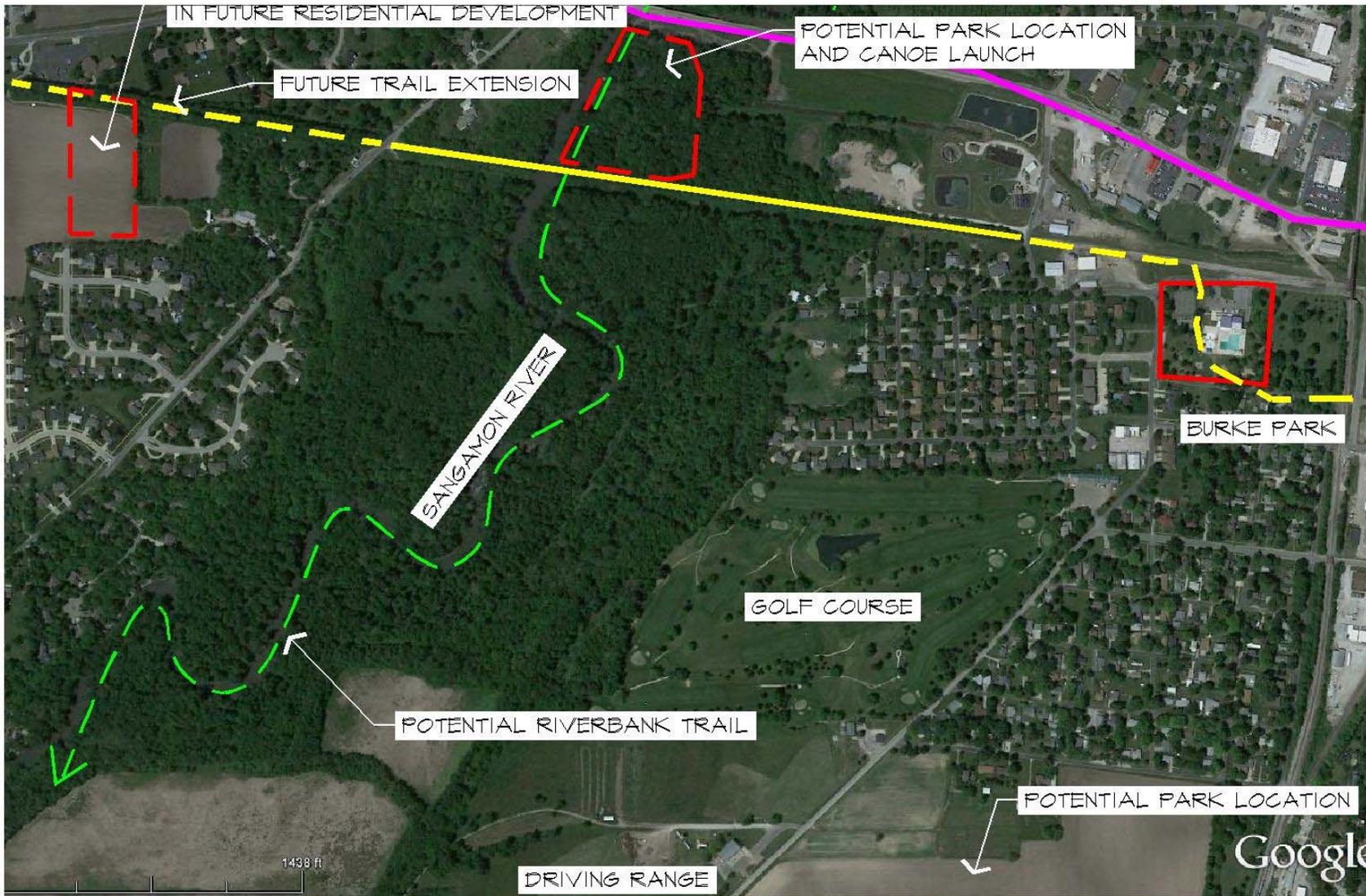


NORTH

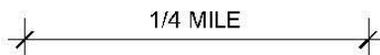


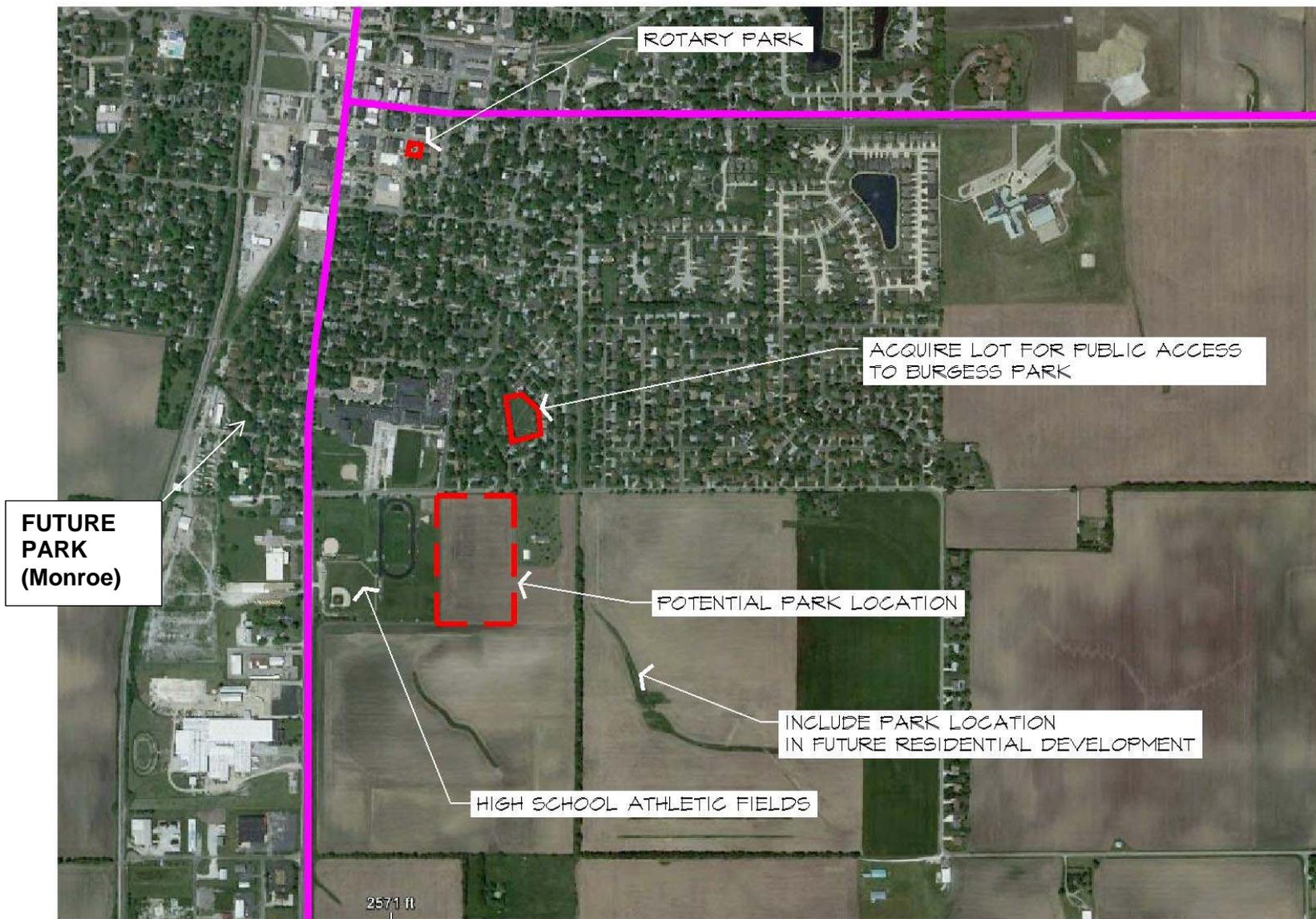
NE PLANNING AREA



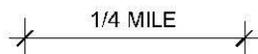


SW PLANNING AREA





SE PLANNING AREA



## SPATIAL ANALYSIS STANDARDS

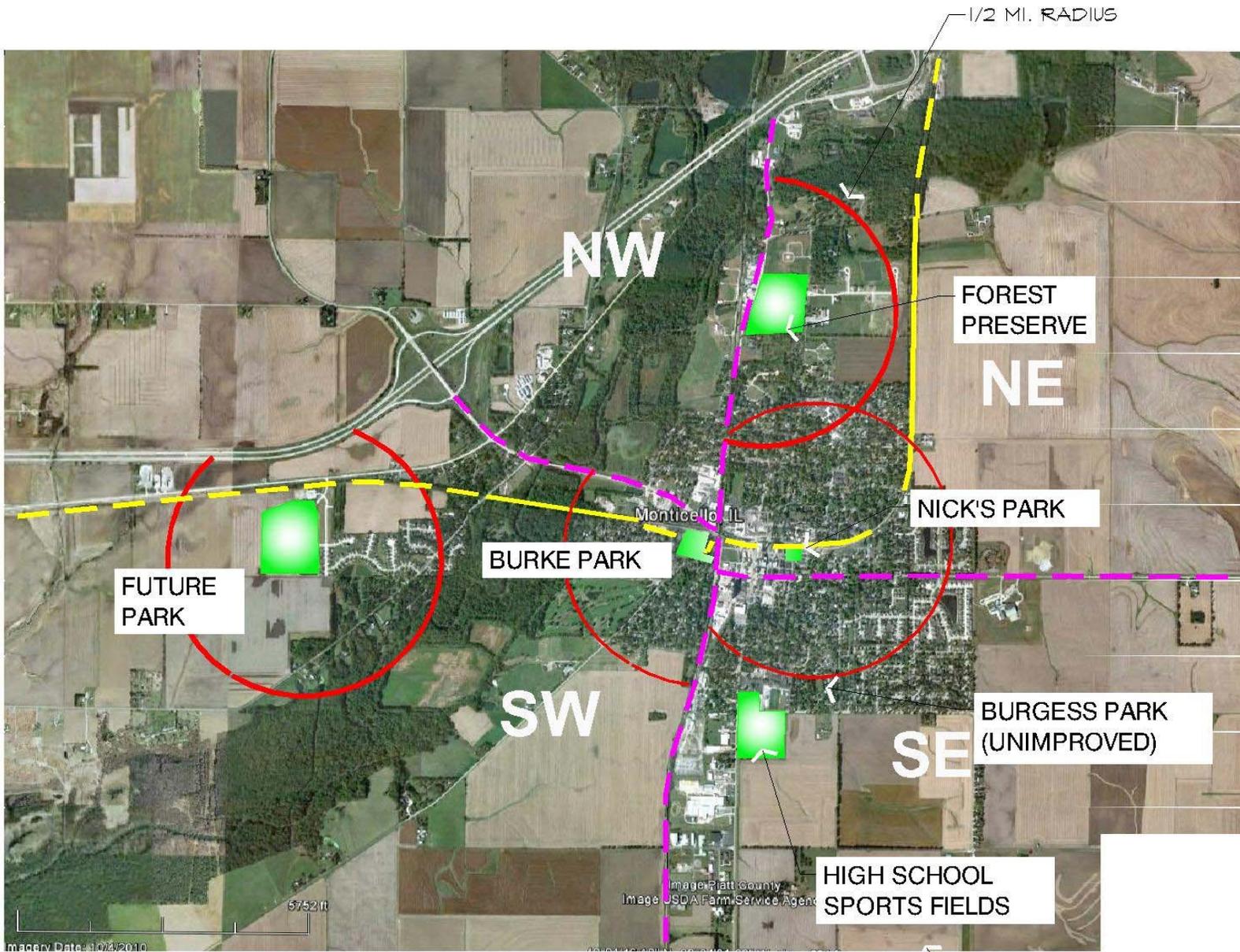
The attached maps provide a study of spatial distribution for the different park classifications in the Monticello park system. Based on the NRPA service area guidelines, these spatial charts help to illustrate where there are potential deficiencies in services to populated areas of the City. Neighborhood and mini-parks are combined on the same map, as their purpose is similar for local residents. On a regional, or natural resource scale, Monticello has nearby Allerton Park and Piatt County Forest Preserves, providing trails, fishing, and nature preserves within easy access by walking, bicycling, or by car.

Neighborhood parks are shown on a service radius of ½ miles, based on the NRPA guidelines. Community parks are shown at a one mile radius. Similar maps may be made showing facility types and distribution, such as playgrounds, tennis courts, and ballfields.

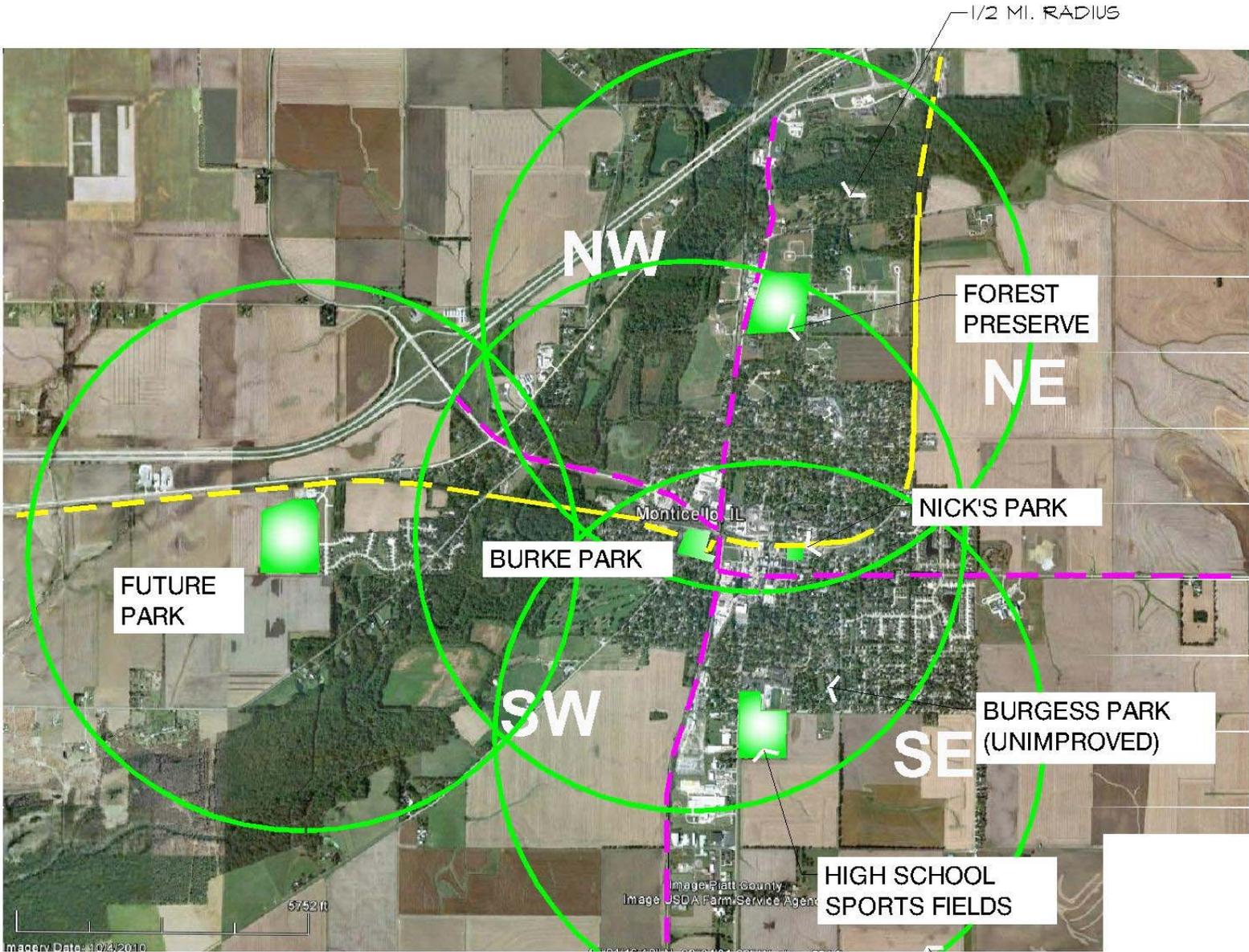
There are existing gaps in the planning areas, and those are highlighted on the planning areas maps and discussions.

A reminder - the use of spatial mapping must be tempered with the knowledge that not every park has the same facilities, or level of service available. Two neighborhood parks may be radically different in facilities that are offered, therefore not being truly 'equal' in recreation opportunities or public perception.

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	<b><u>Service Area</u></b>
Mini Park	¼ mile radius
Neighborhood Park/Playground	¼ to ½ mile
Community Park	1-2 mile radius
Sports Complex	2- 8 mile radius
Special Use	½ mile – 1 mile
Natural Resource	8 – 20 mile radius



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS - 1/2 RADIUS



COMMUNITY PARKS - 1 MI. RADIUS

**COMMUNITY INPUT**

Following are notes from public meetings held by staff during 2011 and 2012. The ideas expressed are merely listed, and are not in any form that can provide statistical backup. The City should follow up with a survey that does a better job of analysis, and determination on public support. This can be very important during the prioritization process, when financial resources are being allocated towards new projects.

*Monticello Recreation Department  
Community Survey  
2011*

The Monticello Recreation Department sent out a community survey in October of 2011. 1,000 surveys were mailed to community residents in water bills, and 268 were received back, giving a return of 27%. Residents were asked to identify age groups that live in their household, and to identify programs they would like to see the community offer. Choices were given, and an area was provided for comments and suggestions. Resident comments are included in a separate document. Below please find survey results:

Total received: 268

The following are demographic groups and number of requests in that demographic for programs:

	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Families</u>
<u>Day Trips</u>	59	20	27
<u>Bus Trips</u>	43	22	21
<u>Camps</u>	2	4	40

<u>Crafts</u>	20	17	33
<u>Dance Class</u>	8	13	29
<u>Art Class</u>	11	11	38
<u>Clinics</u>	1	4	33
<u>Hobby</u>	20	27	36

Top 3 choices/wants in each category:

**Seniors:**

1. Day/bus trips
2. Bingo
3. Fitness

**Adults:**

1. Fitness
2. Hobby
3. Bus Trips

**Families:**

1. Summer Programs
2. Classes
3. Fitness
4. Hobby

**MONTICELLO RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
2011 COMMUNITY SURVEY**

**\*\*Please see back of sheet for ideas and comments section\*\***

*The Monticello Recreation Department is looking for your input! We are planning to expand the services we provide to the community and are looking for new and fresh ideas. All age groups are targeted, from pre-school to senior citizens. A moment of your time to fill out this survey would be greatly appreciated. The Recreation Department is committed to serving our community, and we feel the best way to do that is to talk to the community. We are requesting that surveys be returned to the City Building by 11/4/2011. Look for a new Recreation Guide in the mail after the 1st of the year, and thank you in advance for your participation.*

*Please indicate all age groups that live in your household by circling the appropriate categories, and circle ideas that you would like to see implemented. Feel free to write in any further ideas you may have! You may mail the survey to the City at 210 N. Hamilton, bring the survey to the office, or return in Water Payment Box.*

*Pre-school (under 5)*

*/3rd grade 5th grade*

*6th - 8th grade High School Adults*

*Senior Citizen*

---

*Please circle ideas or programs you would like to see our Recreation Department offer. Use the space at the bottom of this sheet to write in any comments or suggestions.*

*Day trips Bus trips Camps*

*Crafts Dance classes Art classes*

*Clinics(i.e. babysitting clinic) Hobby classes  
(photography, etc.)*

*Programs held on scheduled  
School holidays*

*Card Tournaments*

*Bingo Summer Activities Coffee/Social*

*Walking/Fitness Groups*

*Informational Seminars  
(i.e. Identity Theft, Internet Safety, etc.)*

*Comments or Suggestions:*

**Recreation Survey 2011  
Comments**

1. Please keep in mind that most parents work all day and would like to participate in the evenings or weekends
2. Disc Golf (Senior Citizens)
3. Music Classes: Dulcimer, guitar, mandolin. Walking tours of Monticello for historical homes, trees, and business history
4. Woodworking, how to fix common things, cooking, car maintenance, lectures (Adult/Seniors)
5. Senior Dance Classes
6. Day trips to Galena, Lincoln Museum; hobby class for digital photography for adults
7. A session to meet our local officials other than a city council meeting!
8. Maybe a brief "get to know" encounter, and who do we contact for info or questions?
9. Adult/Senior water aerobics
10. Scrapbook making (adult and k-2 marked)
11. Summer tumbling, Sat/Sun bingo once a week or month (senior, adult, and 3-5th marked)
12. Swim lessons (adult and preschool marked)
13. Would like programs on evenings and Saturdays (senior marked)
14. Cover winter more (adult and pre-school marked)
15. Flag Football for 6-9 year olds
16. Please offer babysitting renewal clinic for kids that have taken the
17. Babysitting Clinic but need to renew the certificate
18. I'd really like to see more pre-school aged programs- sports, classes, etc. It would be great to see more organized/competitive sports programs for kids when they're younger- basketball, tumbling, etc. Water Aerobics!
19. Scrapbooking Classes (adults marked)
20. Art classes - basic - once a week, etc. Ladies Card Groups, not necessarily tournaments. (Seniors marked)
21. Cooking classes
22. Is there a youth basketball program?
23. Indoor pool for winter exercise and swim lessons
24. Evenings after 5:30pm (Adult marked)
25. Adult dance
26. Hobby classes, sewing, tai chi, yoga, exercise (Senior Citizen and adult marked)
27. There is a new walking/bike path on the old RR track that crosses the river. Beautiful walk. How about black topping it or making a surface over the uncomfortable and unsafe large white rock. Make the surface smooth and level- not "crowned". The path should be well used but my friends don't use it because of the surface. Bikers and walkers are both unhappy about that surface.
28. Hobby classes - internet, new tech gadgets (Senior Citizen marked)
29. A VERY STRONG suggestion: My name is Ken Landra, moved here last year with wife and kid to teach Sociology at Millikin University. We love the area (especially Allerton) and use the parks frequently. My last job at the University of Portland (Oregon), had me conducting multi-use assessments

for the Portland Parks Department (my students conducted the survey process as part of their coursework in Environmental Sociology). We discovered that the installment of DISC GOLF at the parks resulted in highly positive effects for the park. I would love to replicate this study here in Monticello. I would also like to propose a new DISC GOLF facility in our town. Fun with local benefits! Let me know if you are interested- I'd love to get involved. -Ken

30. Day Bus Trips. El Paso Antique Mall (North of Bloomington), No junk or crafts. October- Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive, Canton, IL, 1st 2 weekends October, 309-647-8980. GRAFTON- 20 shops of antiques, specialty and restaurants near Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
31. If the kids are in school on holidays the school needs to do events at the school for that holiday (like Nov 11)
32. I am always looking for arts/crafts classes or other activities for my children during the summer or over the school breaks to expand their knowledge and let them experience many different things.
33. Day Trips to St. Louis, Indy, Chicago....Bus trips- Cubs, Bears
34. Do these things (day and bus trips) interfere with activities already in process - Farm Bureau, Church, Senior Citizen trips- Park and Recreation already going on. (Programs held on scheduled school holidays) No, that is family time. I do not support the Recreation Department sponsoring a bus trip to Par A Dice in East Peoria. I do not support gambling. Re-explain new billing and changes for water and sewer and miscellaneous. Wow what a shock. Are you sure it is calculated right?
35. Younger winter sports for kids- Basketball. Football for 1st\_5<sup>th</sup> grades. Music Classes- i.e. piano, guitar, singing, violin, etc.
36. How about incorporating volunteers into the recreation plans. We Seniors have time and never get to meet the new families coming to town because ours are raised.
37. Washer games, Toss Tournaments, Horse Shoe Tournaments
38. I think it would make more sense to have age cut-off dates the same as the school cut-off date. I have a child with a summer birthday who is behind a year in sports because of the early cut off. He isn't able to participate with his friends/peers.
39. Call the Champaign, Decatur, or the Urbana Park District for ideas. I'm certain they would be happy to talk to you. Champaign PD, 398-2550. They have won the National Gold Medal 4 times: More than any PD in the USA
40. Dog park. Victory Garden allotments with water and fences to keep out the rabbits and voles
41. Adult Rec Basketball- Open and Senior
42. Water Aerobics
43. There needs to be activities for new residents who move to Monticello so they can meet new people to become more familiar with the town and the community.
44. Info Seminars with topics regarding Assisted Living
45. More programs and sports geared toward 15-17 year olds would be good. There doesn't seem to be anything but golf for that age group in the way of classes or sports.
46. There is not anything I would have time for.
47. Wish you would not have eliminated 5 and 6 grade recreational basketball. I understand the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> too young for games. Feel 5 and 6 all need an opportunity to play not intense travel teams.
48. Would like Zumba and Line Dancing
49. Schools have too many days with no attendance. Both parents typically work nowadays! (Circled Programs held on School Holidays)
50. I think dance classes would be nice, also programs to watch/inform kids with perhaps some interaction of senior

citizens with school age kids. Maybe sharing of duties, stories, crafts, etc. Maybe help for young couples with parenting classes, budgeting, how to deal with banks, etc. Maybe some home improvement workshops, how to classes for all sorts of things, meal planning, nutrition, shopping, basic computers, how to be involved in areas of interest. Keep up the good work Los, Mindy, and Jill!

51. After school program for children whose parents work would be a god send. Right now as a single parent I am paying \$888 a month for a V2 before school and 2-2 1/2 hours after school.
52. FAMILY VOLLEYBALL!!
53. Repair the tennis courts and use them for tennis only, not that "tennis like" game. Obtain the services of tennis instructors and coordinate with the schools to encourage students learn the game.
54. Zumba Dance Classes
55. A "welcome to Monticello" class/session would be very helpful to both very new residents and those who are settling in after a while. Also, please update your website. One has to really dig for information!
56. A place that Seniors can go and have coffee and socialize, play bingo with no money involved, and have a good time and fellowship and have hobbies.
57. Walking groups and exercise groups and crafts such as knitting and jewelry making at no charge. People could bring their craft supplies.
58. Faith in Action has Senior Fitness Groups. Is there a place for walking inside in the winter? The High School has allowed walking early in the AM which would be good, but for those who like a later time, a provision of a place would be good.
59. Day trips to Chicago or St. Louis/Galleria Mall. Let more Seniors know how to sign up for the Wednesday small trips?!

Go to Covington, Indiana, have lunch at the Beef House and visit some antique stores nearby there.

60. Community Band? Bicycling group? Ride out to Allerton and back as a group at scheduled times?
61. Tennis Program for youth
62. Toddler activities- Boy. Adult dance/exercise classes
63. Basic First Aid classes 2/yr. The demand is clear- extension does them and they fill up every time
64. Grant writing for local 501 C3 organizations
65. Zumba class. Water aerobics in the evening
66. Yoga Classes
67. I think all of the suggestions sound reasonable, I circled ones in which I might have interest. I think the department would be better served focusing on things that can be done in our own community rather than trips, however, if the trips are mainly educational in nature it may make more sense. I feel that classes our local businesses offer shouldn't be the focus of our city rec department. The rec department should supplement services already available not compete with them.
68. All of the above are great, BUT PLEASE USE RESOURCES ALREADY AVAILABLE SO THAT TAXES DON'T GO HIGHER! The new swimming pool is beautiful and we love using it but I still think spending millions of dollars with this small number of people to pay for it will eventually lead to us not being able to afford to live here. If you have classes in the community center or the school you don't need another building or sports facility costing millions. BE SMART. Make Monticello a good and affordable community in which to live. Also, why isn't the exercise equipment in the middle school and/or high school open to the public as in earlier years? Don't assume all citizens are rich.

69. It would be great to have a place teenagers could go perhaps Saturday night.
70. Excited that you are expanding services.
71. Bingo -local to Monticello. Walking- indoor availability. Dance classes - Pilates
72. Theft protection, landscaping, antiques, ski trips, canoeing, hiking, explanation of football rules, explanation of city policies, Piatt county history, tree identification, swimming lessons for seniors, volleyball for seniors, budgeting and cooking classes for food pantry recipients, gardening for food pantry and Habitat for Humanity recipients, basic home repair
73. Fast pitch softball needs to be offered to girls instead of slow pitch. The slow pitch does not help prepare them for high school. Fast pitch teams in the area are growing each year. Monticello needs to do likewise.
74. I'd love to see community gardens(!) and gardening clinics.
75. I work full time from 8:30-5 Monday through Friday. I am also single, so I would love to find things to do in the evenings or weekends.
76. Add lights to the tennis courts
77. Scrapbooking, Instructor- Jewelry making
78. Theater trips, i.e. Chicago, St. Louis, etc.
79. Water Aerobics, Afternoon or evening
80. Day trips for jr. high and high school age kids to historic and educational places; Walking/fitness groups not just for seniors, a class for stay at home moms during school hours would be nice
81. A place to walk inside- year round regardless of weather and time of day
82. Collaborate with high school to offer computer classes
83. I thought some retired men would like to play shuffle board, so many of them like to gather at Hardee's and drink coffee. Fred Finn likes to organize these things.
84. Music jam sessions; dance once a month to get people out. They could socialize or dance. Don't make it too late they tend to have Sundowners Syndrome.
85. Definitely would love to see more activities geared towards adults.
86. That would be fantastic! Yoga, tai chi, or Pilates would be great!
87. Knitting, crochet, Pilates/yoga, pottery/ceramics, babysitting, crafts, hiking/fitness, walks. Especially would like to see some or at least one mom's club that is not "faith-based", so that everyone, including those that do not practice their faith, can interact with other moms and their children can meet other children.
88. Adult athletics, non-competitive. Basketball, soccer, volleyball, etc.
89. Gardening, landscaping classes
90. In the summer, July and August could use more kids' recreation/activities. Kids would enjoy bingo. Remember to keep things affordable.
91. The new pool is a great improvement to the community- and beautiful too. Know you are doing a good job!
92. I would like a public walking/running track for the community. The school track is always in use by the school. Maybe biking lanes too- anything that promotes and facilitates exercise and fitness therefore health for the general population. And, some yoga or tai chi classes for flexibility and stress relief would be great too. Thanks.

- 93. Notification through mail. Several residents who do not take newspaper or monitor internet site. Evenings and weekends dance classes, art classes, and walking/fitness groups.
- 94. Summer tennis league/ladder for adults and kids. Winter ping pong for adults and kids (at Livingston Center?). Connect west side bike/hike trail to east side bike/hike trail. Canoe trip down Sangamon River (start at Shady Rest, take out at Allerton?). Drive-in movie (with car show?) on old Pepsin site.
- 95. Karate, soccer, t ball, and basketball all starting at age 3. Gymnastics and tumbling, games or activities like we played in P.E class.
- 96. Bus/day trips would be nice if certain people didn't complain about where it is going. The day trip to Woodfield Mall would have been nice. Only one day to shop in how many years elsewhere.
- 97. INSTALL SEVERAL POOL TABLES
- 98. Card lessons before tournaments, cooking lessons
- 99. Pickleball- Seniors Age group!!
- 100. More activities for ages 1-5. Music class, tumbling class, craft classes, etc.
- 101. Posting rec league game schedules on the website would be fantastic.
- 102. The change in basketball offerings for children grades 3-5 leaves a hole that rec could consider filling. Thank you!
- 103. We need more programs offered for kids- especially physical things.
- 104. I am part of the moms group of Monticello and we could be a great resource for you to get the word out about kid/family activities. Many of the moms are also former teachers and might be amazing short- term leaders/teachers for some of these potential programs. Would love to talk more

about what the town can do and how I can help. Katie Fulton,

- 105. Swimming lessons for children

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**Senior Special Interest Group Meeting  
March 14, 2012**

Mindy Condis and Jill Potts met with the Senior Group at Coffee Club to discuss the current programs offered by MPRD to the Seniors and to talk about future wishes. The group was very involved in the discussion and had the following ideas:

1. A place to walk for senior citizens both indoor and outdoor. Current bike trails are somewhat intimidating to this population due to location. They would like to have a trail that is flat and open and easily accessible. They would love to have an indoor track.
2. Shuffle Board
3. Classes/seminars held to cover today's technology geared toward their age group. Email, computers, cell phones, etc.
4. Pool tables. Would love to have in current rec center (Livingston Center) but not enough room.
5. Indoor pool to be used in colder months for lap swim, water aerobics
6. Fred Finn has talked with Parkland College before regarding guest lectures on various topics being offered here. Would like to see this happen.
7. Transportation offered to programs
8. Movies once a month geared toward senior population
9. Card games to be offered possibly with coffee hour
10. Continue all current programs

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**Monticello Moms Group  
Special Interest Meeting**

**11/16/2011**

Mindy Condis and Jill Potts of the Monticello Recreation Dept. met with Katie Fulton, president of the Monticello Moms Group to discuss future program ideas and communication/networking with this segment of the population. The following are the main points to come out of this meeting:

1. Communication:
  - a. Facebook
  - b. Google groups
  - c. Email lists
  - d. Newspaper
  - e. MPRD speaking to group
  - f. Blog
2. Dance classes for children
3. Recreation Bucks

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**Special Interest Group Meeting  
Travel Baseball, Softball, & Soccer Team Coaches**

Carlos McClellan met and spoke with several coaches from different Monticello baseball, softball, and soccer travel teams.

The individuals had the following comments, thoughts, and ideas:

**Baseball & Softball**

- \*Need for more baseball and softball diamonds in town.
- \*Diamonds are scattered all over town no central location.

- \*Practice fields that are available at the middle school or Washington school are in bad shape and have no working lights or restrooms.
- \*No practice times available once Recreation Leagues start up for the season.
- \*Travel teams play 90 percent of their games out of town due to lack of fields.
- \*Why do recreation games always have priority over travel teams? We are all tax payers for these facilities.
- \*Need fields with good drainage so after rain they are not unusable for a few days.
- \*Money leaves town each time we travel to another community.
- \*It would be nice to host some tournaments in Monticello if we had a complex that could handle it.
- \*Last season we hosted one two day tournament in Monticello with volunteers and made \$1,800 profit that was donated to the Rec. Dept.
- \*Need a facility with plenty of parking and team warm up areas.
- \*Synthetic turf fields are great for avoiding rain outs.
- \*Concession area is a must for making money at tournaments.

**Soccer**

- \*Need for more soccer fields in town.
- \*We host one soccer tournament a year in Monticello during November not an ideal time due to lack of fields.
- \*Only time we have lined soccer fields in town are in the fall when the recreation dept. has their leagues. Fields then are full each night until dark.
- \*No lighted soccer fields in town.
- \*Soccer Fields are not even dedicated fields they serve as other areas during non-soccer months. No drainage and not level ground.
- \*The school allows the Recreation Dept. to play soccer but limits the club team's usage. Club team play's home games in DeLand, Illinois.
- \*Need irrigated fields with good drainage
- \*Tournaments and games bring in guests that spend money locally.
- \*Need an area where goals can be accessible year round not just in the fall.
- \*Club Parents willing to volunteer when new facility is built.
- \*We have our own soccer goals that could be used on fields.

\*No current soccer fields beside high school varsity have scoreboards on them.

\*Bleachers are nice no current fields have seating.

## **SECTION 4**

# **INDIVIDUAL PARKS SURVEY AND ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

This section describes the existing features of each park within the City, and makes suggestions on enhancements that may provide additional benefits or increase potential usage. Preceding the Park analysis are general comments that can be applied across the City as a whole, and should be considered with each renovation or development contemplated in the Master Plan.

As in all comprehensive plans, it is recommended that for each park a development Master Plan should be created. The plan should be

performed by a competent park planner, based upon findings of this report and follow up meetings with public and staff.

However, as funding is crucially tight and it may be a period of years before every park is addressed, it is not recommended to undertake full scale Master Plans for every park at this time. Public opinion, recreation trends, and populations may change quickly, rendering a Master Plan out of date and out of touch with actual needs.

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## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The majority of parks is in good condition, and is maintained well from a visual standpoint. Almost all physical amenities and equipment are nearing, or are past their useful life cycle and are in need of replacement or refurbishment.
2. All parks should be studied for potential improvements, and comprehensive Master Plans commissioned for each prior to renovation. It is important that the City utilize a public process that encourages neighborhood participation in the park design.
3. Current park design trends are seeing athletic fields being increasingly relocated to larger community parks, where parking and space are better handled. It is encouraged that future neighborhood parks should not have competitive athletic fields – fields should be designed for pickup play and practices only. Schools, often used for athletic facilities, are also no longer being used as the ‘main’ playing fields and are being replaced by community sports parks.
1. Adopt a ‘Park Development Standard’ for future reference and development. This document will ensure that for any park to be donated, or improved on by the City, a standard is in place to properly install site features – for instance, benches with

concrete footings to frost depth and at a proper, level height of 18-19” for the seat; sidewalks are at ADA guidelines; turf is graded at a 2% minimum; and the like.

2. Continually check for vandalism and markings on all surfaces of play equipment and park amenities. “Tagging” should be removed immediately to prevent additional damage.
3. All fencing should be reviewed and either replaced or repaired if needed. Fencing may be painted black to help it blend into surroundings.
4. New Regulatory Signage & Improved name signage

There is no unified standard for park signs identifying the Monticello Park Department. Although the current park signs are of a nice design, they may be enhanced through use of an identifying LOGO or other design details. Landscape plantings also can enhance park signs. In many parks, current regulatory signage is a hodge-podge of styles and locations. The Parks Department should create a system of regulatory signs for general park rules, and a series of signs demonstrating recommended age groups for play areas. This will help prevent a proliferation of park signs being scattered throughout the

parks. Signposts may be erected at public entrances to the parks where rules can be posted.

- a. Cost effective
  - b. Uniform
  - c. Is there a need for signs to be multilingual?
  - d. Prominent location
5. Ensure that all new and current park developments are meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some major considerations:
- a. Bench locations and placement on accessible routes
  - b. Transitions into playgrounds from accessible routes
  - c. Playground surfacing and maintenance
  - d. Providing accessible routes a minimum of 5' wide to all components of a park, and from public walks and parking areas
  - e. Playground design meeting ADA guidelines for height, reach, access, and number of components
  - f. Encourage use of recycled and sustainable materials in park construction
6. Standardize a playground surfacing throughout the City; wood fiber or stable rubber products are recommended. All playground design and surfacing should meet requirements of ASTM and the CSPC guidelines.
7. Install trash cans on permanent bases (concrete pads to simplify mowing) or locked to posts to prevent vandalism and tipping.
8. The parks lack color and visual interest in landscaping; the City should begin a program of adding perennials and landscape enhancements to parks while providing a balance with available maintenance. Poorly maintained landscape reflects negatively upon the drive-by and casual park user.
9. Utilize earth fill for land contouring and berming to add screening and visual interest to parks as they are renovated; and to save dollars on hauling fees.
10. Place all asphalt paths on a sealcoating program every 5 years or so, or as needed.
11. Turf quality in many parks suitable for open space athletic use has been pointed out as low quality – turf repair, possibly including re-grading and field tile schemes should be addressed for each park
12. To prevent residents from feeling slighted, the quality of all facilities should be similar across the City, and budgets should be allocated to work across the City in an even manner. The Planning Area study points out areas in need of attention. The 5-year capital plan can be used to balance improvements.
13. Create an annual tree planting programs to help replace existing trees as they decline from age and urban conditions; encourage public appreciation of trees and their value to the environment by using workshops, a 'Tree Care Hotline', and by sponsoring 'Going Green' public events talking about sustainability.
14. Look into privatization of smaller park maintenance, such as turf mowing. Often small parks can be done by local contractors for less than department staff, especially if the City is overtaxed in labor without availability of high school or college workers.
15. An accountable system of landscape maintenance must be put into place so that any beds, turf, or shrub areas are maintained on a regular basis – thus preserving investment.

## **ROBERT C. BURKE MEMORIAL PARK**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- 6 acres located at Railroad and West Union on the West side of Monticello

### **HISTORY**

- The Park is named for the late Robert C. Burke, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from Monticello.
- In 2010 the City opened the new aquatic facility following a referendum

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- Public basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts
- Playground equipment, benches, and picnic tables are available
- Gazebo, flower gardens, memorial trees, and most trees in the park are tagged and identified
- Abraham Lincoln memorial. The Memorial was refurbished in the summer of 2006 as an Eagle Scout Project done by Jared Lambert
- Community Aquatic Facility
  - 5,000 square ft. bathhouse building with a full basement for water filtration, treatment, recirculation equipment, & storage.
  - 5,750 square ft. main pool with a 6 lane 25 meter competition area. (Depth varies from 3 - 5 feet)
  - 12 foot deep diving well with a 1 meter and 3 meter board
  - 15 foot tall by 63 ft. long Flume Water Slide
  - 2,400 square foot Zero Depth pool with 16 water features
  - Lounge chairs located throughout the facility
  - Large deck umbrellas for shade
  - Locker rooms and shower facilities
  - Concession stand
  - Private Party Rental Room and Arcade Game room



## IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- No ADA connective outside of pool, basketball and tennis
- Playgrounds are beyond their useful life – need new, current design and fall safety features. No ADA access into surface areas
- Current design is ‘shot-gun’, with no cohesive planning or layout

## RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Create a new Master Plan for re-development
- Bike Trail Connection to proposed Riverwalk Trail
- Continuous and accessible trail system thru park connecting amenities
- Develop a new community playground
- Enhance perimeter parking for accessibility and to maximize usage – connect with trails
- Relocate sand volleyball; and / or create a family games and picnic area with large shelter
- Look at small ‘skate spot’ for teen users
- Repair sport surface cracking and re-color







PERSPECTIVE 1

**TRAIL CONNECTION TO  
FUTURE RIVERWALK BIKE TRAIL**

## **NICK'S PARK**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- 1 acre located at the corner of Buchanan and Livingston streets

### **HISTORY**

- The community raised \$50,000 for architect fees and materials.
- Built in five days by community volunteers in May of 1992
- Named in memory of the late Nick Sanantonio, whose parents Cody and Jim Sanantonio organized the park project for all children to enjoy
- Several areas of the park have been updated in recent years.
- March of 2009 new swing sets were installed
- August 2010 Zach Eades repaired areas and sealed the entire structure for his eagle scout project

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- A multi-level wooden structure with inter-connecting tunnels, ramps, bridges, ladders, and overhead rings, as well as sliding poles, slides, swings, and balance beams makes this park a favorite of children
- Small shelter with washrooms
- Parking lot
- Secondary playground intended for tots – newer equipment
- Garden Memorials and Childrens 'Stone' Garden

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Wood playground pieces are rotting out and splintering; wood is past its useful life
- Pea gravel surfacing
- Washrooms need to be evaluated for ADA compliance; shelter is not on ADA accessible route
- Gardens not maintained



## RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Replace playground with new themed structures; work on public support for the memorial aspect of the park
- New safety surfacing
- New landscape plantings; increase maintenance budget
- Locate tables and drinking fountain on walkways





# ROTARY CENTENNIAL PARK

## PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- Located at the corner of State and Main streets on the square

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## HISTORY

- Renovated in Spring of 2004 (performance stage, water fountain, flower gardens, accessible walkways, & clock)
- Established by the Monticello Garden Club

## EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

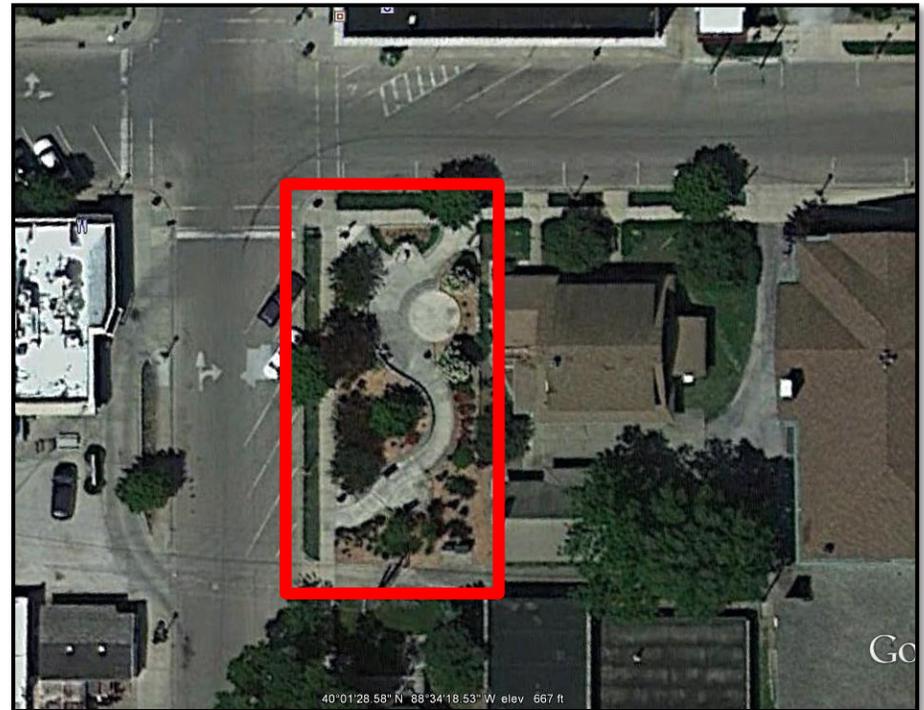
- Benches provide a pleasant place to relax and enjoy ice cream in the summer
- Features the Looking for Lincoln "Wayside" Storyboard exhibit
- The park and downtown area are a must see during the Christmas season with all the lights and town tree

## IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- None

## RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- None at this time





## **GUCKER PARK**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Located at the intersection of Longview Road, Buchanan, and Bond streets on the south side of town.

### **HISTORY**

- Named for the late Paul Gucker, an avid gardener

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

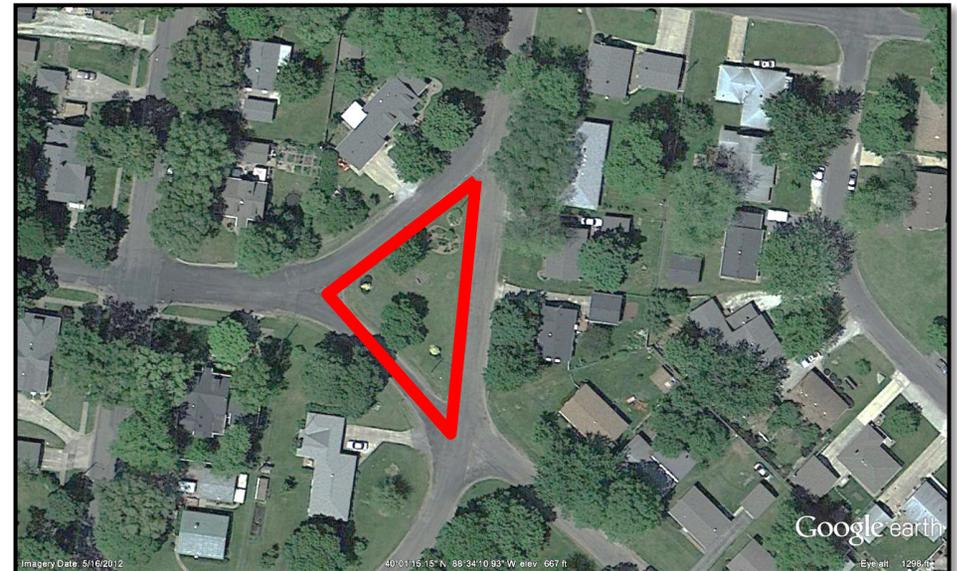
- Name Sign
- Landscaping

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- No ADA access
- No sidewalks
- Location surrounded by roads

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- It is recommended that the City reclassify this site as a boulevard and take off park acreage list
- If recreational use is desired:
  - Install gazebo and path system for local adult use only (garden club perhaps)
  - Play area not recommended because of heavily traveled streets



## **BURGESS PARK**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Located in south Monticello in an interior lot bounded by Park Place, Longview Rd, and Buchanan Dr.
- 1/2 acre neighborhood park serves as an informal playing field and walking area

### **HISTORY**

- Land was donated to City.

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- Concrete sidewalks allow thru passage to school students
- Turf areas

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Sidewalks break up play areas – can these be rerouted, or created on street?
- No access from streets – no recognizable entry point

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Can a lot be purchased to create an entrance, perhaps parking?
- Need a name sign
- Install play equipment
- Install ½ basketball, or multipurpose hard court, possibly with a ‘Skate Spot’
- Discuss potential with neighbors to re-design park to allow for perimeter walks, remove from middle





**BURGESS PARK**

## **MERRY PARK**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Located on the south side of Burnside Drive in far south Monticello.
- Site located in an industrial park; full electric available

### **HISTORY**

- Marcia Merry Foreman and Raymond Wayne Merry dedicated the land for Merry Park in honor of their parents Raymond F. and Mildred Bear Merry

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- Detention basin only
- Area not suited for children's activities.
- Small shelter

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

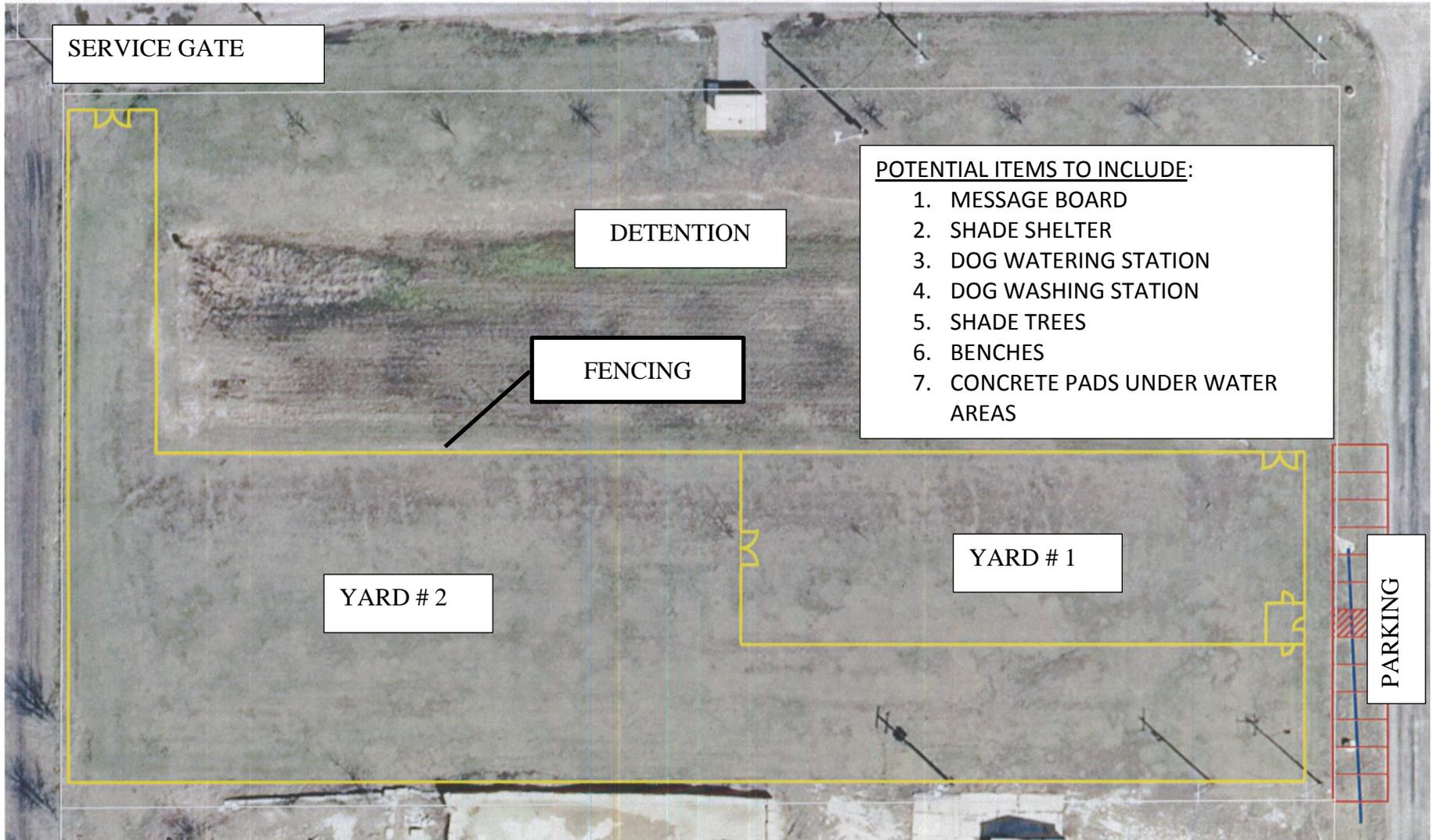
- No useable land for recreation purposes
- Area not conducive to children's activities. Potential for a lunch spot for workers

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Remove from active park acreage list unless additional land can be provided for recreational use; or site can be re-engineered to provide some usable park space.
- Possible potential for a native bio-swale use to help cleanse storm water entering the site. Will require re-grading, native plantings, and a 3 year maintenance plan. May not be the best use of funds due to limited visibility to public and small size.







PROPOSED DOG PARK

## **BIKE / MULTI-USE TRAILS**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Designated City Street Routes. (Marked with Bike Route Signage)
- Trail Section 1 runs from Grant St. to Cemetery Rd. along the old inter-urban (1 mile long asphalted trail). The trail was asphalted in October of 2004. No motorized vehicles or scooters are allowed on the trail. Before and after photos are shown below. In an effort to extend the life of the trail it was sealed in May of 2009.
- In 2010 the family and friends of Nick Reeves built a Gazebo along trail section 1 in his memory.
- Trail Section 2 opened up May 1, 2010 it runs from Railroad St. to County Farm Road along the old rail bed and across the Sangamon river (0.6 mile long). We eventually will have the trail asphalted. No motorized vehicles or scooters are allowed on the trail.



### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- Trestle is old railroad bridge.

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Place bench / rest areas for pedestrians and bikers

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Trail stops on the north side of bridge. The City should continue negotiations into linking the trail to the west and the new Sports Park and Municipal Library location.
- City is continuing to negotiate for trail continuation to the south into town, the aquatic facility and Burke park, and linking to Section 1 trail.
- City should probe into creation of a riverfront park area to make a destination
- See Section 6 for further trail discussion.



## **DRIVING RANGE**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- The range is located at the old City landfill located at 904 Allerton Road. This range features 3 different types of hitting surfaces: Natural Grass, Sand Trap, or Synthetic Turf Mats. Several yardage targets are also set up to allow for individuals to get accurate club distance.
- A privately owned golf course is located ½ mile away.

### **HISTORY**

- Driving range opened in 1999.

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- Artificial Tees
- Grass Tees
- Sand Traps

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- No defined target areas, just yardage signs and flags
- Small sand trap chipping area
- Limited service concession area, also controls landscape waste dump site behind range.

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Develop practice areas for sand traps, cuff areas
- Develop putting area
- Develop lessons area separate from public areas
- Look into partnering with FIRST TEE program to develop more intensive learning facilities. Better layout may create better attendance and revenue.
- Construct permanent concessions / control area



## **HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Located south of the community High School.

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- 

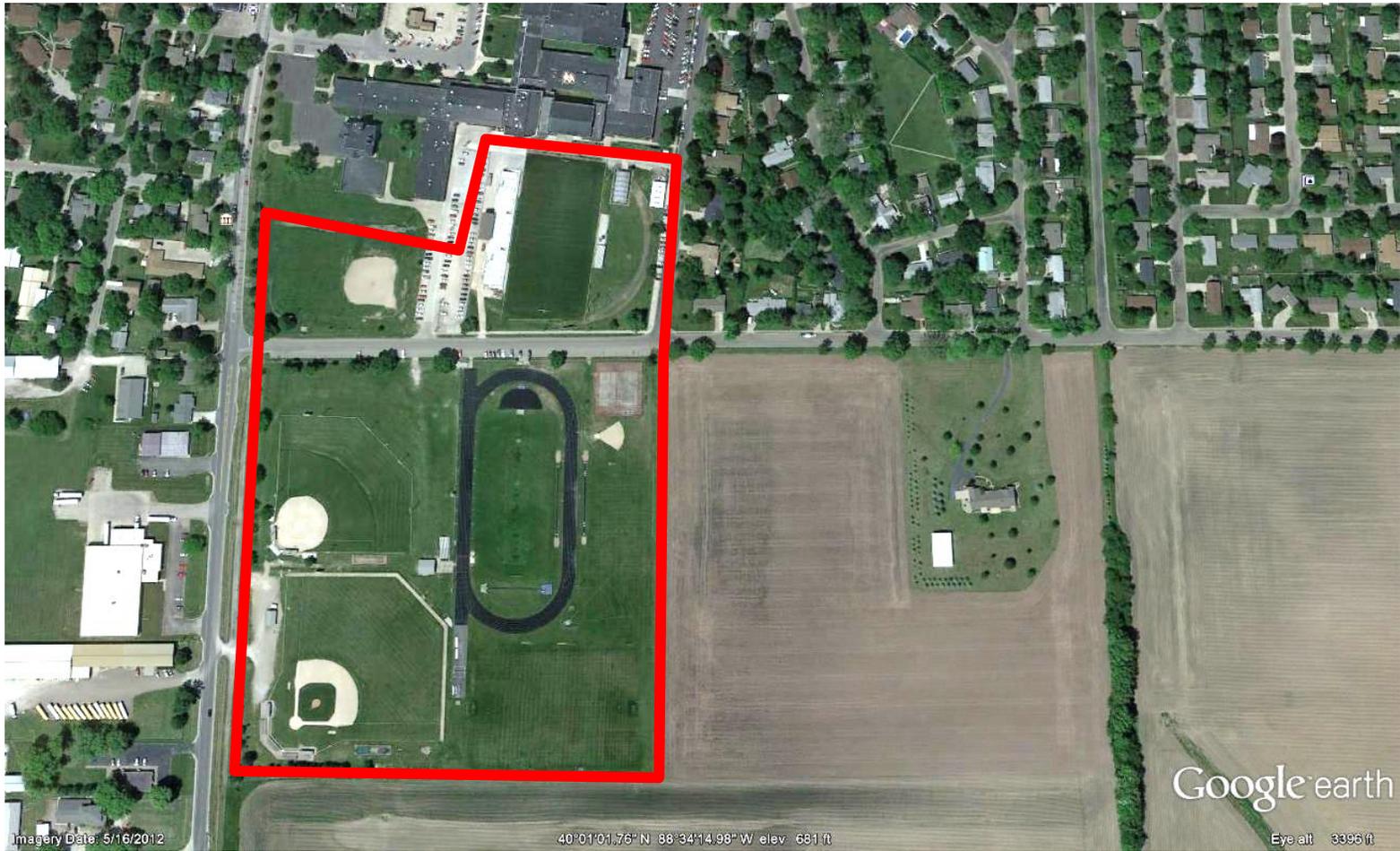
### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Although used by City for public recreation, fields are limited in use capacity and are subject to school limitations. Fields are only available in the summer and fall months.
- The high school football field is not allowed for practices – only games. There is a tremendous need for football practice facilities.
- Only a few fields are lighted, limiting the number of games the facility can support. No soccer fields have any lighting – especially important during shorter days.

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- There is potential to add land to the east or south of the existing complex. This property could be used for additional football or soccer fields.
- The tennis courts could be refurbished and lighted for after work hour use. The only other courts are located in Burke Park and are not lighted. The high school could potentially add courts to be able to create a tennis team.
- The City should continue its efforts to create a Sports complex that will support tournaments and play with appropriate infrastructure and parking





**HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC  
FACILITIES**

## **FOREST PRESERVE PARK (COUNTY)**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Owned by Piatt County Forest Preserve District

### **HISTORY**

- The City has a verbal agreement allowing full use during the entire year.

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- 2 lighted ballfields, used for youth leagues
- Concession stand.
- Washrooms
- Parking
- Bleachers
- Backstops and fencing
- Picnic pavilion
- Playground equipment

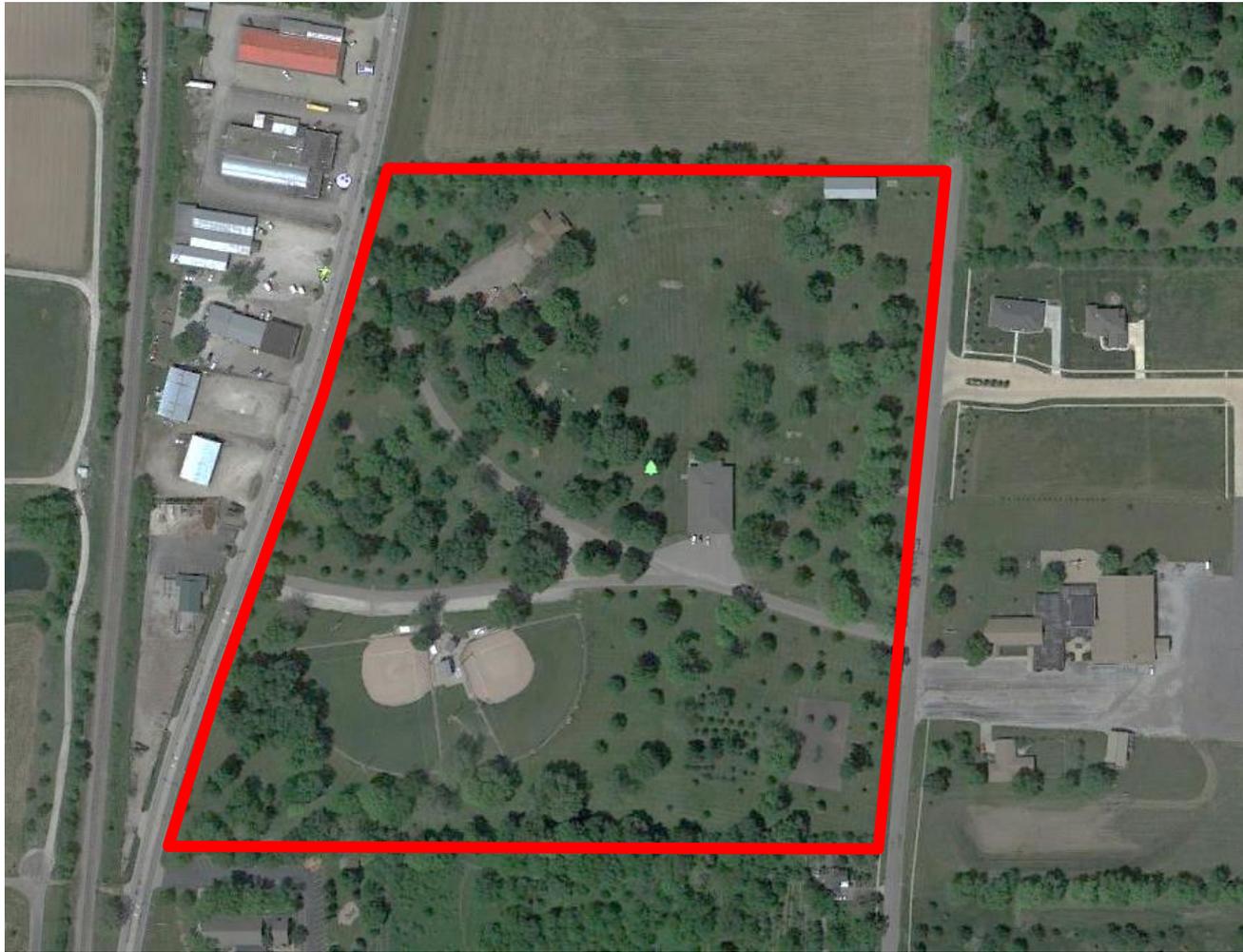
### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Field drainage is poor, causing poor turf conditions especially on the east field
- Fencing needs updating and repair
- Concessions and washrooms are not ADA accessible and need to be improved for long term use
- More bleachers are needed for usage

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Minor improvements to continue future use; convert to T-Ball and P-Nut leagues and move older fields to new locations
- Lighting improvements – bring in a lighting firm to evaluate
- Add batting cage area for training purposes
- Renovate press box and concessions for better use of space





**FOREST PRESERVE PARK**

## **VALENTINE PARK (COUNTY)**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- Owned by Piatt County Forest Preserve District

### **HISTORY**

- Donated to Piatt County by Katherine Valentine on behalf of her family that had a homestead on the property

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

- ½ mile nature trail (not paved)
- Picnic areas
- Gravel parking lot
- Memorial Tree plantings

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- None

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- None



## **MULTI-SPORTS PARK (PROPOSED)**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- 30 acres purchased by the City in 2010

### **HISTORY**

- Originally part of a planned residential community
- Utilities are available to site
- Major roadways service the site
- The Monticello Public Library decided in early 2013 to build a new library on the Carle Hospital site located on the north perimeter of the park site

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

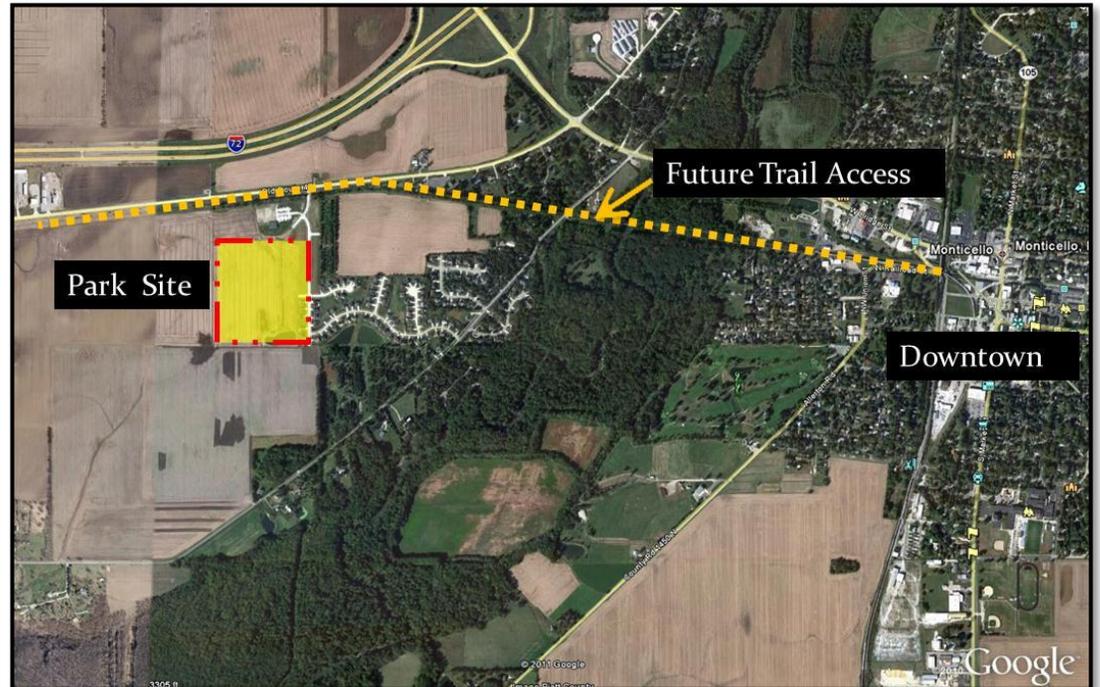
- Open farm field

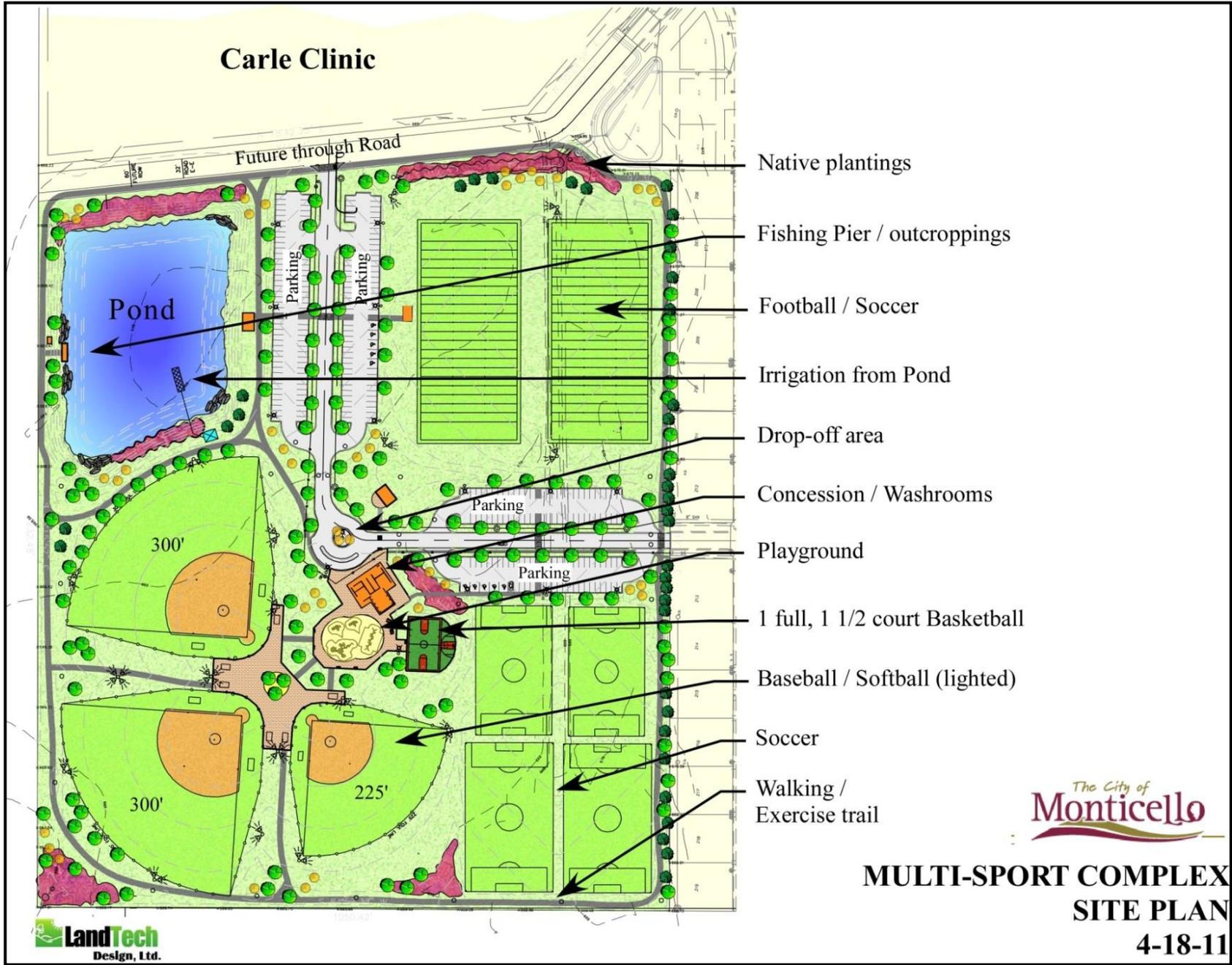
### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Funding and appropriate phasing of construction

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Development of athletic fields for youth and adult baseball, football, and soccer.
- Construct a community playground for the City and nearby subdivision.
- Construct a washroom / concession facility
- Construct basketball courts
- Create a detention pond suitable for fishing, picnicking
- Construct a walking , jogging trail with fitness stations
- Construct adequate off-street parking to prevent parking in the subdivision
- Utilize native plantings for Best Management Practices and water re-charge





## **MONROE STREET PROPERTY**

### **PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS**

- .5 acres purchased by the City in 2012

### **HISTORY**

- Single family lot
- Adjacent to multi-family and single family housing
- Railroad on west cuts access
- Market street 1 block to east

### **EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY**

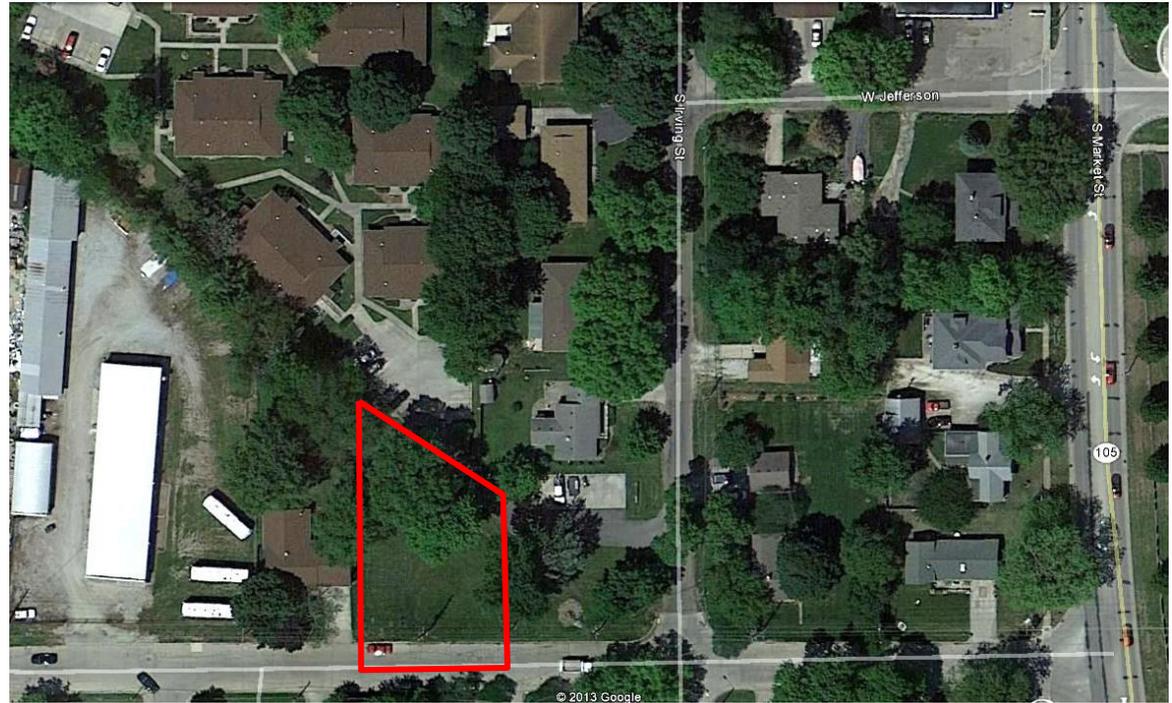
- Turf grass
- Few large shade trees
- Road frontage on Monroe Street

### **IMMEDIATE CONCERNS**

- Funding and appropriate phasing of improvements

### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS**

- Small neighborhood play area.
- Picnic area
- Active sport, such as ½ basketball court or Skate Spot





## Sangamon Land and Water Reserve

### PLACEMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

- 157.3 acres

### HISTORY

- 10-18-2005 approved by Illinois Nature Preserves Commission – Easement # **27409**

### EXISTING FEATURES / SUMMARY

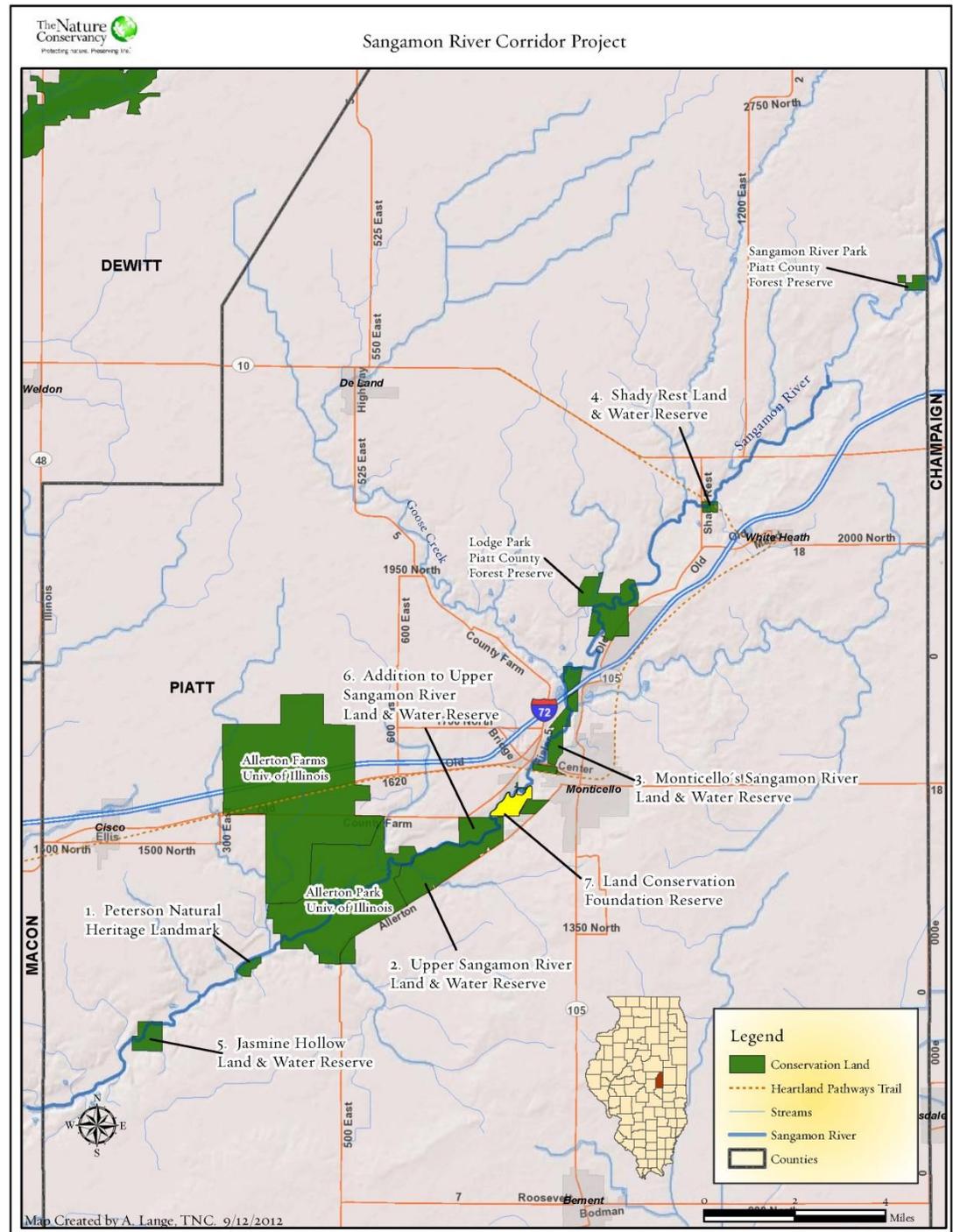
- Floodplain and bottomland along the south side of the Sangamon River
- Heavy trees
- Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

### IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

- Funding and appropriate phasing of improvements

### RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

- Trail development
- River access for fishing and recreation
- Support for tourism, such as bait shops, bicycle rental, canoe rental
- Plans need to be approved by INPC
- See Trail Plan for Sangamon River Valley in Section 6
- Outdoor recreation programming
- Potential location for outdoor group training – high ropes courses, wall climbing, cable traverse



## Land Conservation Foundation

### Map Key to the Sangamon River Corridor Project - Piatt County Segment

Date	Project	Partners	Size	Land Cost	Funding Source
1999 1.	Peterson's Natural Heritage Landmark	<b>Brian and Jane Peterson</b> INPC and IDNR	77-acres		Private funds
2000 2.	Upper Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve	<b>Art Institute of Chicago</b> <b>University of Illinois</b> TNC, IDNR and INPC	641-acres	\$2.2 million	½ from OpenLand Trust Fund (IDNR) ½ from Senate Republican Caucus Sen. Stan Weaver
2004 3.	Monticello's Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve	<b>City of Monticello</b> TNC, INPC and IDNR	153-acres	\$215,795	<b>Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation</b>
2005 4.	Shady Rest Land and Water Reserve	<b>Piatt County Forest Preserve District</b> TNC and INPC	23-acres	\$116,355	<b>Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation</b>
2005 2006	Land owner contact of people owning undeveloped land adjacent to the Sangamon River	<b>Land Conservation Foundation</b> <b>Illinois Natural History Survey</b> produced the materials	From the Macon County line to Mahomet. ≈37-miles	\$15,000 \$15,000 \$15,000 \$ 1,000	Archer Daniels Midland Co. Robeson Family Foundation  Archer Daniels Midland Co. Robeson Family Foundation Champaign Co. Soil and Water Conservation District
2006 5	Jasmine Hollow Land and Water Reserve	<b>Jim and Marr Payne</b> INPC/IDNR/GPF	145-acres		Private funds

2008 6.	Addition to the Upper Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve	<b>University of Illinois</b> IDNR and INPC	151-acres	\$750,000	Hunter Heritage /Pheasant Fund
2010 7.	<b>Land Conservation Foundation Reserve</b>	<b>Land Conservation Foundation</b> TNC, IDNR and INPC	108.-acres	\$563,730	\$155,400 private funds \$455,000 Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

TNC- The Nature Conservancy.  
IDNR- IL Dept. of Natural Resources.  
INPC- IL Nature Preserves Commission.  
GPF- Grand Prairie Friends.

## **SECTION 5**

### **PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

These system wide recommendations are compiled from staff and board input, public survey, and the field observations from LandTech. Recommendations stemming from planning area analysis are found in Section 3. Recreational programs are not discussed in the Plan.

These recommendations are intended as a guide to comprehensive facility development that will offer equal and attractive recreational opportunities to all residents throughout the City, now and in the future.

Recommendations are broken down into 3 categories:

1. Park Development – General System Recommendations
2. Land Acquisition
3. Maintenance / Infrastructure

## **PARK DEVELOPMENT**

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### **SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

A high priority of the Plan is to improve and renovate the existing parks and utilize all suitable available open spaces. All objectives identified include considerations for improved accessibility, aesthetics, and security as well as the preservation of existing natural, cultural and historical resources.

The historical development of parks in Monticello have led to an antiquated system that now fails to support some of the lifestyle trends and expectations of residents. Due to ever increasing demands for quality recreation facilities and programs, pressure is being applied to supply community and neighborhood parks that fulfill the need.

The role of neighborhood and community parks will change through time. A neighborhood park is just that – a small open space of 2 – 7 acres that allow neighborhood children and families to meet, socialize, and play. Early park design usually focused on offering the same things in every park, such as tennis, baseball, and playgrounds. Today, however, these facilities may no longer belong, or be needed in every

single park. Specialization of facilities, and the desire to provide ‘something for everyone’ will lead to a different park development models. Newly developed sports and hobbies are playing larger roles in the desired activity range for a park.

In order to satisfy the needs of neighborhood children, you only need to look towards the street to see what the kids are doing. Kids are playing baseball, street hockey, basketball, skateboarding, rollerblading, and looking for places to socialize. Often they are doing it in areas where they can be seen, not hidden away as many people would expect.

Challenging, or new activities are what grab the attention of today’s youth. High adventure facilities such as wall / rope climbing, BMX trails, snowboarding, etc. are seeing tremendous jumps in participation. It is up to today’s parks to keep America young and fit, by getting them into activities and away from televisions and computer games. Today’s neighborhood park needs to be a vital mix of offerings that keep users near home, preventing additional automobile trips and traffic congestion. We need to look at these amenities closely to design parks into more efficient, satisfying areas for the user.

Lastly, the current economic downturn makes it difficult for taxing bodies to raise additional funds for improvements. Public recreation, however, becomes more important as people take less vacations, or cut back in recreational spending. Having well rounded outdoor facilities give residents opportunities to stay active usually at lower costs than private recreation facilities.

**It is vitally important that the City take a renewed investment stance in the park system and begin allocating additional funding.**

Following is a chart of participation in various outdoor activities on a national level. Walking, fishing, bike riding are just a few of the highly rated items. It can be interpolated that Monticello residents will follow a similar pattern. For a true cross section of resident needs, however, this type of information should be garnered from further detailed surveys, helping to accurately direct future development towards the needs of Monticello, and not just satisfy the quotas system.

Sport	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Aerobic Exercising	24.3	28.0	33.7	34.8	33.2	42.0
Archery (Target)	4.7	3.9	6.8	6.6	7.1	6.3
Backpacking/Wilderness Camping	14.5	13.7	13.3	13.0	12.3	11.6
Baseball	14.9	14.6	14.6	14.0	11.5	12.3
Basketball	28.1	27.9	29.9	24.1	24.4	26.1
Bicycle Riding	39.0	36.3	43.1	37.4	38.1	39.1
Billiards/Pool	32.7	30.5	37.3	29.5	28.2	20.0
Boating, Motor/Power	22.6	24.2	27.5	31.9	24.0	16.7
Bowling	40.3	39.4	45.4	43.5	45.0	34.9
Camping (Vacation/Overnight)	45.5	51.4	46.0	47.5	50.9	42.8
Dart Throwing	16.9	n/a	n/a	12.1	12.2	9.3
Exercise Walking	71.2	79.5	86.0	89.8	93.4	97.1
Exercising with Equipment	43.0	48.6	54.2	52.9	57.2	55.5
Fishing (Fresh Water)	39.1	33.2	37.5	30.8	29.0	28.0
Fishing (Salt Water)	11.3	10.6	10.0	10.4	8.2	9.7
Football (Tackle)	8.6	8.7	9.9	9.2	8.9	9.0
Golf	26.6	25.7	24.7	22.7	22.3	20.9
Hiking	26.1	25.0	29.8	28.6	34.0	39.1
Hockey (Ice)	2.2	1.8	2.4	2.1	3.1	3.0
Hunting with Bow & Arrow	4.7	5.0	6.6	5.7	6.2	5.1
Hunting with Firearms	19.2	17.7	19.6	19.5	18.8	16.4
In-Line Roller Skating	19.2	16.0	13.1	10.7	7.9	6.1
Kayaking	3.5	4.7	7.6	5.9	4.9	7.1
Mountain Biking (Off Road)	6.3	8.2	9.2	9.3	8.4	6.0
Muzzleloading	3.0	3.1	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.1
Paintball Games	5.6	7.4	8.0	7.4	6.3	5.3
Running/Logging	24.5	22.9	29.2	30.4	32.2	38.7
Skateboarding	9.6	9.0	12.0	10.1	8.4	6.6
Skiing (Alpine)	7.7	6.8	6.9	6.4	7.0	6.9
Skiing (Cross Country)	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	2.3

Sport	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
Snowboarding	5.3	6.3	6.0	5.1	6.2	5.1
Soccer	13.9	11.1	14.1	13.8	13.6	13.9
Softball	13.2	11.8	14.1	12.4	11.8	10.4
Swimming	54.8	47.0	58.0	52.3	50.2	46.0
Target Shooting	15.9	17.0	21.9	20.5	19.8	19.6
Target Shooting (Airgun)	2.9	3.8	6.7	6.6	5.2	5.3
Tennis	10.9	9.6	11.1	12.3	10.8	13.1
Volleyball	12.0	10.4	13.2	12.0	10.7	10.1
Water Skiing	5.5	5.5	6.7	5.3	5.2	4.3
Weightlifting	21.2	25.9	35.5	33.2	34.5	29.1
Workout At Club	26.5	29.5	34.7	36.8	38.3	34.5
Wrestling	3.5	n/a	n/a	2.1	3.0	3.2

### Ten-year History of Sports Participation

*Participated more than once (in millions)*

*Seven (7) years of age and older*

### National Sporting Goods Association

Sport	Total	Percent Change	Sport	Total	Percent Change
Kayaking	7.1	26.6%	Football (Tackle)	9.0	-3.0%
Skiing (Cross Country)	2.3	11.5%	Archery (Target)	6.3	-3.3%
Wrestling	3.2	9.4%	Softball	10.4	-4.2%
Aerobic Exercising	42.0	8.9%	Camping (Vacation/Overnight)	42.8	-4.3%
Running/Jogging	38.7	8.9%	Golf	20.9	-4.3%
Gymnastics	5.1	7.6%	Workout At Club	34.5	-4.8%
Tennis	13.1	7.0%	Volleyball	10.1	-5.1%
Yoga	21.6	6.9%	Fishing (Fresh Water)	28.0	-6.4%
Hiking	39.1	3.8%	Skiing (Alpine)	6.9	-7.1%
Backpacking/Wilderness Camping	11.6	3.7%	Weightlifting	29.1	-7.4%
Lacrosse	2.7	3.5%	Hockey (Ice)	3.0	-9.2%
Soccer	13.9	3.0%	Bowling	34.9	-10.6%
Exercise Walking	97.1	1.3%	Dart Throwing	9.3	-11.2%
Hunting with Firearms	16.4	0.6%	Swimming	46.0	-11.4%
Exercising with Equipment	55.5	0.3%	Paintball Games	5.3	-13.2%
Muzzleloading	3.1	0.2%	Skateboarding	6.6	-14.3%
Target Shooting (Airgun)	5.3	0.1%	Table Tennis/Ping Pong	10.9	-15.2%
Hunting with Bow & Arrow	5.1	-0.2%	Snowboarding	5.1	-16.1%
Fishing (Salt Water)	9.7	-0.7%	Billiards/Pool	20.0	-16.9%
Target Shooting	19.6	-1.2%	Boating, Motor/Power	16.7	-17.0%
Bicycle Riding	39.1	-1.6%	Water Skiing	4.3	-17.8%
Baseball	12.3	-1.9%	Mountain Biking (Off Road)	6.0	-17.8%
Basketball	26.1	-2.9%	In-Line Roller Skating	6.1	-18.4%

**2011 Sports Participation (change from 2010)**

*Participated more than once (in millions)*

*Seven (7) years of age and older*

**National Sporting Goods Association**

## RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS / FACILITIES

The following pages illustrate some of the myriad of outdoor recreation opportunities that are available to park systems similar to that found in Monticello. Not all, and possibly very few of the following activities may be a proper fit for Monticello – this list should serve more as a catalyst for reaching out to the public, and providing information. Most importantly, some of these activities, such as a Challenge Course (ropes course) may have potential to produce revenue and help offset costs of maintenance and operation. At the very least, the City can try to partner with nearby facilities for local residents.

### Community parks

These should be developed to offer a wide variety and unique recreational opportunities for residents, such as

1. Outdoor Adventure Courses / Team Building Facility – this is offered by Allerton Park (University of Illinois 4-H Extension office)
2. Community Flower Gardens, Community Vegetable gardens
3. Dog Parks – exercise area, training area
4. Frisbee Golf
5. In-line Skating Rink / Ice skating
6. Handball / Squash
7. Croquet court
8. Bocce court
9. Bean Bag Courts
10. Horseshoe pits – competition
11. Skate parks– , beginner to advanced skill levels
12. Model airplane / boat / RC car tracks – this is offered locally at ELI Field, near the Railroad Museum
13. BMX Bicycle course
14. Accessible Fishing Stations
15. Platform Tennis
16. Pickle Ball (offered at Burke Park Tennis Courts)
17. Public fountains / Interactive Features
18. Amphitheatre / Band Shell



## Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

There should be a playground within walking distance (1/2 mile) of every child who lives in any area where the average lot size is less than 0.5 acres. The playground should include separate equipment for different age groups, and provide for accessibility for all. Playgrounds should be accompanied by shade trees and other passive facilities such as benches, picnic tables, mini-shelters, and bicycle access. Playgrounds can be developed with originality, and follow themes such as ships and riverfronts, fire departments and transportation, NASCAR, forts, etc. Natural materials should be incorporated where possible, as they stimulate imaginative and creative play.

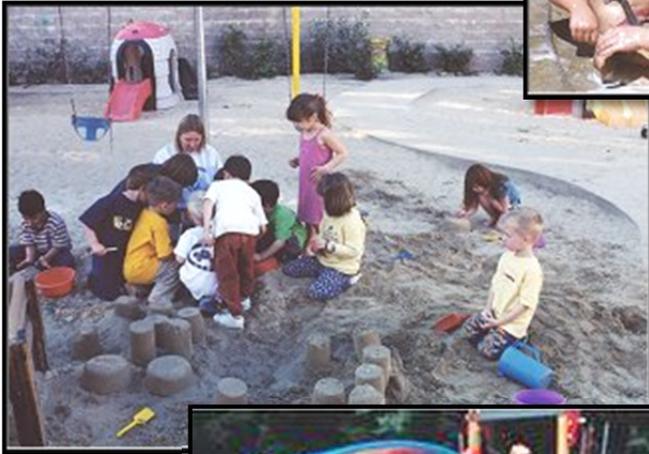
There are very few playgrounds in the City. Interviews and public comments indicate a large desire for increased play opportunities. A plan should be developed that will create different styles and types of play apparatus to stimulate imagination, and encourage use of multiple parks. Playgrounds should be located to allow residents to walk, rather than drive to a neighborhood park. Mini-parks may be able to suit a need if larger plots are unavailable. The city should be careful of creating too many mini-parks however, as maintenance efforts are typically higher.

Neighborhood park and playground design should consider:

1. Big Wheel Tracks
2. Funnel Ball
3. Neighborhood Skate Elements
4. Natural play areas – incorporate plants, boulders, sand and water play
5. Teen playgrounds
6. Rope Climbers / Zip Lines
7. Theme Playgrounds
8. Adventure playgrounds
9. Spray / Water Components
10. Sand Play areas
11. Pickle Ball
12. Tether Ball
13. Sound Play Equipment



**Multi-Age Playgrounds**



**Sand Play**



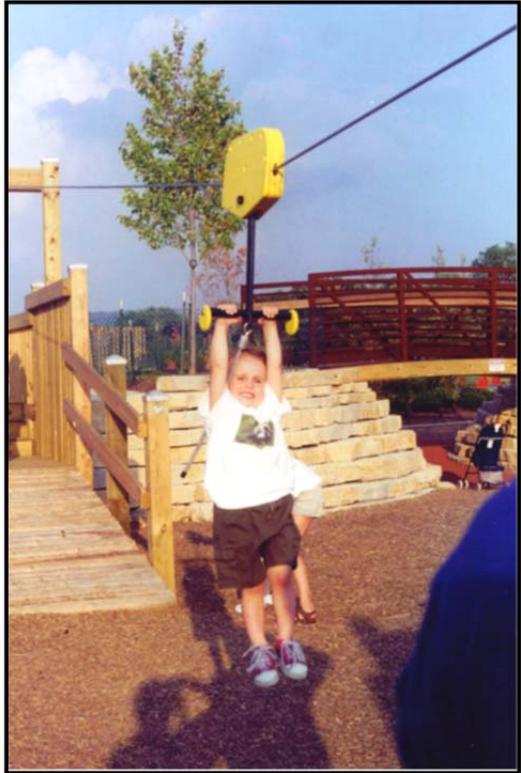
**Interactive fountains**



**Disk Golf**

**Challenge Courses**





Zip Line



Innovative Equipment





**Natural Materials**

**Theming**

## Competitive athletics

Every resident or youth who wishes to participate in organized sports leagues should have the opportunity to participate. The Recreation Department should constantly monitor the needs of local sports groups, and be able to provide facility space and fields. Athletic fields should be concentrated at one or two locations for efficient management and maintenance, and to avoid the expense of repeated infrastructure requirements such as parking, water, and lighting. Clusters of similar sports fields allow for tournament play, and offer potential revenue. Having fields in excess of actual need also allows for the resting and repair of heavily damaged fields – a common complaint of athletic groups.

The proposed Multi-Sports Park will fill the needs determined by the Park Department from its 2010 study.

## Skate Parks

Monticello has no community skate park or 'Skate spots'. The reasons are many for the implementation of skate parks; quite a few are pointed out by the users themselves:

- a. Street skating can be dangerous or damaging to property;
- b. There is the need to provide recreation for a new generation of youth that does not necessarily participate in organized group sports;
- c. Banning of the sport simply encourages abuse and indiscriminate participation, it does not stop the problem;
- d. There is a need for a location for adolescents to gather and socialize with friends – they cannot be expected to attend programs with rigid authority and requirements;
- e. One of the stated goals of the District is to provide diverse recreational choices for residents.

As seen in the National survey, skateboarding is actually going down in activity ratings. Experts believe this is a hiccup, and that skateboarding and BMX biking are here to stay.

These trends should be further verified with kids by circulating surveys at schools and having special meetings.



The Recreation Department should also explore inclusion of skating elements into neighborhood parks during future development. Small ramps, benches, rails, and curbs called 'Skate Spots' can easily be worked into park designs, allowing children to stay within their own neighborhood, enjoying the sport without requiring transportation to a community site. Skating and trick biking has become just as mainstream as basketball and baseball. Neighborhood skate elements have an additional benefit – the reduction of plywood skate ramps cropping up in driveways across the City.

## Family Aquatic Center (FAC)

Today's trends for outdoor pools have shifted significantly, as evidenced by the rise of recreational aquatic parks – outdoor facilities that provide slides, splashing, shallow ends, fountains, sunning areas, volleyball, and other experiences that provide something for everyone. Splash pads, flume and drop slides, lazy rivers are just some of the options.

In 2010 the city redeveloped the civic pool to create the Monticello Family Aquatic Center, incorporating new features such as sprays and slides. The renovation was made possible by a tax referendum. Because of the need to retire bonds, it is vitally important that the facility produce revenue. Programming and future park additions should be made on the site to complement the MFAC. Burke Park can use better parking, and family facilities. Most importantly, the City should not look into spray pads or other facilities that would compete against the MFAC. For instance, the proposed Multi-Sports Park may include a mister for cooling off athletes, or perhaps 1 or 2 small scale sprays, but none that would create a destination fountain, possibly drawing users away from the MFAC.

## Winter Sports / Ice Skating / In-Line skating

Outdoor skating, long a winter staple of Park Departments, has become a severe cost drain on agencies over the last 10 to 15 years. The abnormally warm winters have reduced skating days to a handful. The enormous cost of spraying ice at the early hours of the morning, potential overtime, and the cost of water have proved too difficult to overcome. Lastly, providing outdoor skating also sabotages potential revenue for the Ice Arena, something the district cannot afford to lose.

Lately, many manufacturers of in-line skating rinks have constructed their rinks in a method that allows for easy wintertime flooding for ice. By utilizing retaining borders and liners to hold water while in a liquid state. This allows year round use to a facility, and reduces the amount of labor spent on flooding typical turf areas. Such a facility is usually a good addition to an athletic park, where a variety of uses can be

programmed, such as floor hockey, soccer, pickle ball, and basketball. Adding lighting can extend the use of the facility through the seasons.

The lack of snowy winters has effected sledding as well. By the nature of its physical requirements, sled hills should be located with a north orientation and adequate parking for community use. If a location was found, a small hill (15' - to 25' high) would suffice. These can be adequately provided through new or re-development, as there is often an excess of soil they are looking to lose off-site.



## Bicycle and walking/jogging paths

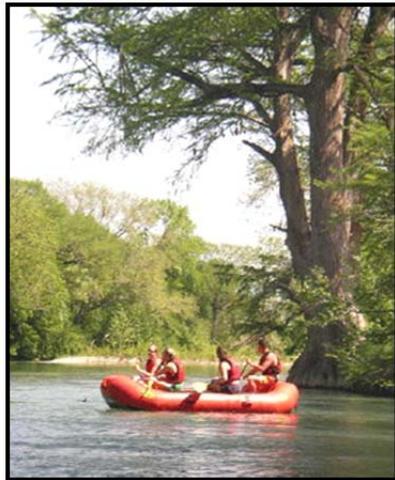
The City has embarked on an ambitious Bike and Multi-use trail program. See Section 6 for further discussion.

## Passive recreation space / Natural Areas

Each community and neighborhood park should have a passive recreation component available to its residents. Monticello has great opportunity in looking to the Sangamon River as a hub for natural area

appreciation. Waterfront trails, signage, and rest areas can be developed focusing on local and regional history. These trails can connect to future local parks and trails, creating a destination park that could provide eco-tourism benefits for the community.

The Recreation Department should foster agreements with neighboring communities and County Forest Preserves to provide nature programs. Additionally, the District may be able to implement small scale ‘Green’ environmental techniques such as Rain gardens or Bio-swailes that help improve water quality, provide natural infiltration of storm water, and add natural wildlife habitats. These can be placed and interpreted to foster understanding, appreciation, and long term support.



The City should look at developing a recreation resource along the Sangamon River that celebrates its history, cultural background, and natural beauty. Rafting and canoeing can be facilitated by creating a River Trail, complete with launch and pull-out areas. This effort may be done in conjunction with other communities and parks along the river. The nearest put in location is the 500 acre Lodge Park just 2 miles north of town. A takeout is available at Allerton Park,

approximately 3 miles south of town. A municipal canoe launch would focus recreation on the river, and potentially promote economic development.

### **Outdoor Music/ Festival Spaces**

Special events are an important part in the fabric of a community, and are strong for public relations and community pride. Memorial Park is heavily used as the center of the community, with something available nearly all of the time. The District should continue to upgrade and

enhance facilities. When larger parks are renovated, new design should incorporate large areas for gatherings or other public events. Ensure designs consider a multitude of possibilities, including utility availability, parking and vehicle access, washrooms, special event capability, and rental potential.

### **Renovated School Sites – School / Park Design**

As the schools throughout Monticello go through a renovation and or enhancement period, opportunities for new site layout and design may present themselves. This could lead to more modern design and recreational offerings that could be shared. Growing populations will require more schools, increasing the opportunity to create school-parks. The Recreation Department should begin discussions with local school districts to combine facilities. School-parks offer tremendous advantages to the taxpayer, including better design and multiple use of public land, and reducing redundant infrastructure and facility costs. Park sites are most appropriately combined with elementary or junior high levels where athletic fields may also be shared.

### **Baseball and softball fields**

Every youth who wishes to play baseball or softball in an organized league should have the opportunity. Current participation indicates a field capacity a bit short of requirements for local leagues. Of greater importance is the need to provide lighted fields, and to remove some of the playing fields away from neighborhood parks. Lighted fields should reduce the actual number of fields required to play the anticipated schedules and improve delivery of these programs. Current fields should be intensively maintained to keep up with use and prevent long term re-development cost.

### **Soccer**

In the process of locating existing and planned facilities, several points should be considered. All soccer fields should be located in one or two locations for efficient management and maintenance. Moving fields from year to year to allow the most heavily used areas to rest for repair

also affects the number of required fields. All soccer fields should be irrigated if possible to maintain adequate turf cover and safe playing conditions. Fields should be intensively maintained to keep up with use and prevent long term re-development cost. Providing lighted fields extends the amount of field time during shorter days.

### **Specialized Recreation Facilities**

The Recreation Department has done a fine job of providing a myriad of facilities that support recreational programs, fitness, and athletics. Additional attention could be paid to developing the following:

1. Ice Arena
2. Theater
3. Cultural Arts
4. Fitness Center
5. Nature Center / trails along Sangamon River

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

The City of Monticello has borders open to development. As part of new residential development, land should be required to be set aside for public park space in a dedication ordinance. These land set-asides can be planned to be contiguous, creating a larger park site for the area over time, rather than creating many little parks that cannot serve larger needs.

The potential to add additional space onto existing parks sites is virtually non-existent as most parks are surrounded by improved property. Any land acquisition initiatives will require purchase and demolition to improved lots, so this option will only be viable in certain extreme circumstances.

### **Park Dedication Ordinance**

There is no developer donation requirement in place with the City of Monticello. Even though development is slow because of the current economy, such an agreement should be put into place as a safeguard that future park improvements will be made by developers providing neighborhood park space for their new residents. A donation ordinance can be used to set aside land for park use; pay for neighborhood park development; or a combination of both. These ordinances are typically set up to provide local recreation amenities for the new residents of the subdivision, and should not be used to try to fix problems elsewhere in the community.

### **Priorities**

1. Expand small parks whenever possible through acquisition of additional lots, or an adjoining property becomes available.
2. Explore opportunities for locating new or additional park maintenance facilities.
3. Monitor and improve school-park agreements, and explore other potential agreements with private landowners, or parochial interests.

### **MAINTENANCE and INFRASTRUCTURE**

In order for the Recreation Department to keep up or better public opinion of maintenance in the parks, increased attention to the needs of the department will have to be studied. The City must carefully consider the maintenance aspects of improvements, and weigh them against long-term maintenance cost. It can be a tough decision – should you have a sand play area with occasional maintenance on equipment and clean-up; or ignore the need and provide a standard playground that will bore kids after just 15 minutes.

1. Maintenance - Creating a Park Maintenance Department will ensure that the parks are properly kept in a safe, function manner. A dedicated park maintenance crew can respond to

problems and emergencies much faster than city crews taxed with other responsibilities. A dedicated crew also provides consistent support for programming and other events. The end goal is that residents are typically happier with well-maintained and cared for parks.

## 2. ADA Accommodations

The majority of parks fail to meet public ADA accommodations because of inadequate design. A report should be run on all recreation facilities that prioritizes the required changes. Efforts should be made to continually upgrade accessibility when parks are redesigned. Major factors to correct include:

- a. Accessible route to all components of the park – this should be a minimum of 6’ wide for passing.
  - b. Locate at least 50% of all benches, trash cans, and drinking fountains along accessible routes, include benches with handrails.
  - c. Include an accessible transition into playground areas.
  - d. In community park locations, explore a stabilized surface such as rubber tiles or pour-in-place type resilient systems to promote use and flexibility of design.
  - e. All shelters should be located along accessible routes – include shady areas as well.
  - f. Pursue reviews of Recreation Department facilities for ADA compliance and suggested repairs.
3. Drinking fountains – The City should evaluate the installation of drinking fountains in all of the parks. There are several key considerations:
- a. Accessible Drinking Fountains range in cost between \$ 1500. to \$2000.

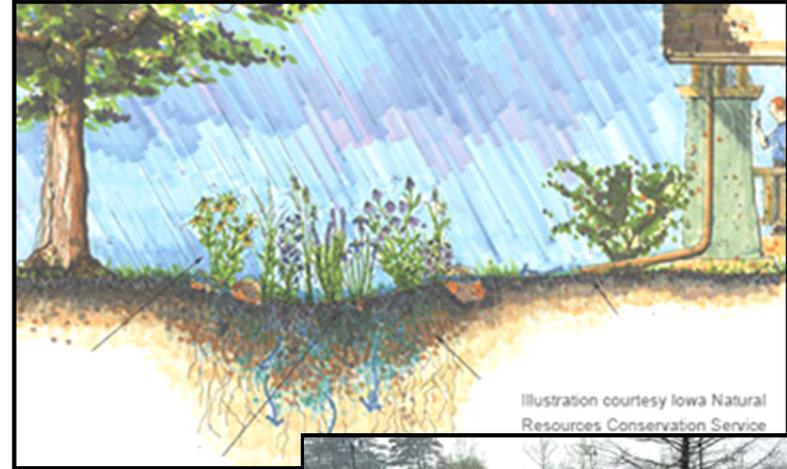
- b. Installation requires a drainage pit, water meter, backflow preventer (usually installed above ground with a vandalism cover) and connection to an existing City water system. The cost of this work can reach \$ 5000.00 or more, depending on the length of waterline and method of installation.
  - c. Drinking fountains have heavy maintenance requirements and parts costs. Besides start-up and fall winterization, fountains are susceptible to vandalism and misuse.
  - d. Fountains may become multi-purpose with the addition of spray misters, or dog bowls, allowing play or cooling off in mid-summer.
4. Existing Park Signage is not uniform, and does not display an easily recognizable logo. Identification leads to public pride and needs to be implemented on a standard park sign to bring continuity across the system. Individual Park signs for special facilities should also incorporate similar features, be it a logo, landscape features, or colors. New, long lasting signs are being constructed of plastic (from simple to complex) that require no maintenance. Signage beds should be bold, and noticeable, perhaps with additional architectural components to create a sense of place.
5. Almost all of the park facilities visited do not have an accessible transition curb into the playground, or walkways to get to the play area. Other facilities are also in need of ADA accommodations. Typically a drop-off is created between the sidewalk and the play surface as it settles. A solution to this is a simple concrete structure similar to a slanted sidewalk that should be added into playground design standards.
6. Fall surfacing – Careful attention should be paid to fall surfacing on renovated and future playgrounds. Sand and pea gravel systems are not accessible, and provide little fall cushioning. ASTM and CPSC guidelines do not recommend

their use as safety surfacing. Wood fiber, or unitary rubber products typically provide the best fall protection. Wood fiber with a drainage layer is cheapest, but requires weekly and annual maintenance to top off and level ruts and dips. Rubber, although substantially more expensive at the outset, generally requires little to no maintenance and should be good for a minimum of ten years.

**The City should obtain a copy of the ASTM playground standards, and Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for Playground Safety before contemplating future improvements.**

7. Athletic courts should be seal coated with playing stripes and arcs, and in the best case, color coated. This makes them more enjoyable to play, and provides needed practice zones. It also gives a finished look to the court, as well as sealing it and extending its useful life by 10+ years. Where basketball courts may become a problem because of rough language, or proximity to playgrounds or family area, long term design should be considered that provides separation physically and visually from other user groups.
6. Incorporate ‘Green’ Techniques with new development. The Recreation Department should use its Environmental Coordinator to suggest and review proposed park improvements that could serve as educational tools, such as:
  - a. Rain Gardens
  - b. Permeable pavements
  - c. Recycled or Renewable resource materials in new construction and renovations.
  - d. Interpretive and education opportunities, such as signage or interactive exhibits should be encouraged.

### **Rain Gardens and Permeable Paving**



## **SECTION 6**

### **BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN PLANNING**

## **CREATING A BICYCLE FRIENDLY MONTICELLO**

The City of Monticello has shown a great appreciation for biking and multi-purpose trails for several years, as its efforts have culminated in the creation of the first two segments of trails connecting to the old railroad overpass, along the eastern side of town to the north, and plans for future connections to nearby rural communities. The primary backbone of the system is a series of abandoned railroads, currently held in private hands.

As Chicago has proved over the last several years, even a community that is built out can address alternative transportation issues and be successful in implementing trail systems. A safe, multi-use trail system will add to the use and livability of the parks and community as a whole.

Designing for bicycle travel, both for fun and for transportation, is not a new concept. Bicycle planning thrives in Europe, where bicycle routes and trails are part of the everyday fabric of life. In the U.S., we are just beginning to realize the importance of bicycle planning, and the positive effects it can have on air quality, personal health, and the reduction of vehicle traffic. The purposes of typical bike trail plans include:

1. Identifying public land, utility easements, and public right-of-ways that can be utilized for a trail system.
2. Giving residents the ability to safely use alternate transportation methods.
3. Creating an “interstate” of trails that will connect to surrounding communities, focal points throughout Monticello, the local parks, and schools.
4. Identifying funding resources and implementation strategies that will lead to construction of the trail system.

5. Gaining public input and support for the trail plan.

There are several important parts to the creation of a successful bicycle plan for the City. This plan should touch upon the following topics:

1. Design Alternatives
2. Public Education - Drivers and Riders, perhaps a ‘Safety Village’
3. Local Investment and Support
4. Incorporation of design standards into all levels of future City developments and parks planning
5. Funding opportunities

### **TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

The successful implementation of a bicycle plan can be measured by setting goals and objectives. For Monticello, these include:

1. Move people to shopping and retail destinations downtown
2. Move people to recreation facilities and parks, schools / education centers
3. Provide alternative modes of transportation
4. Rider Education programs – Safety Towns (needed), roadside signage
5. Local support – entertain a ‘Share the Streets’ Campaign
6. Linking to existing or planned bicycle and trail routes from other communities

## **BICYCLE TRAIL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **REGIONAL**

Nearby Champaign and Bloomington-Normal are at the forefront of major bicycling and trail initiatives in the region. Both communities are fulfilling ambitious plans to implement on-road bike lanes throughout the City, and multi-purpose off-road trails throughout the area. These municipalities are working with local municipalities, recreation agencies, and resource preservation agencies to locate and begin implementation of additional trail connections.

### **LOCAL**

Local municipalities will have the responsibility to provide for and implement trails on the local level. These may be simple trail connections to existing trails, or a local system of trail types that fulfill necessary transportation routes.

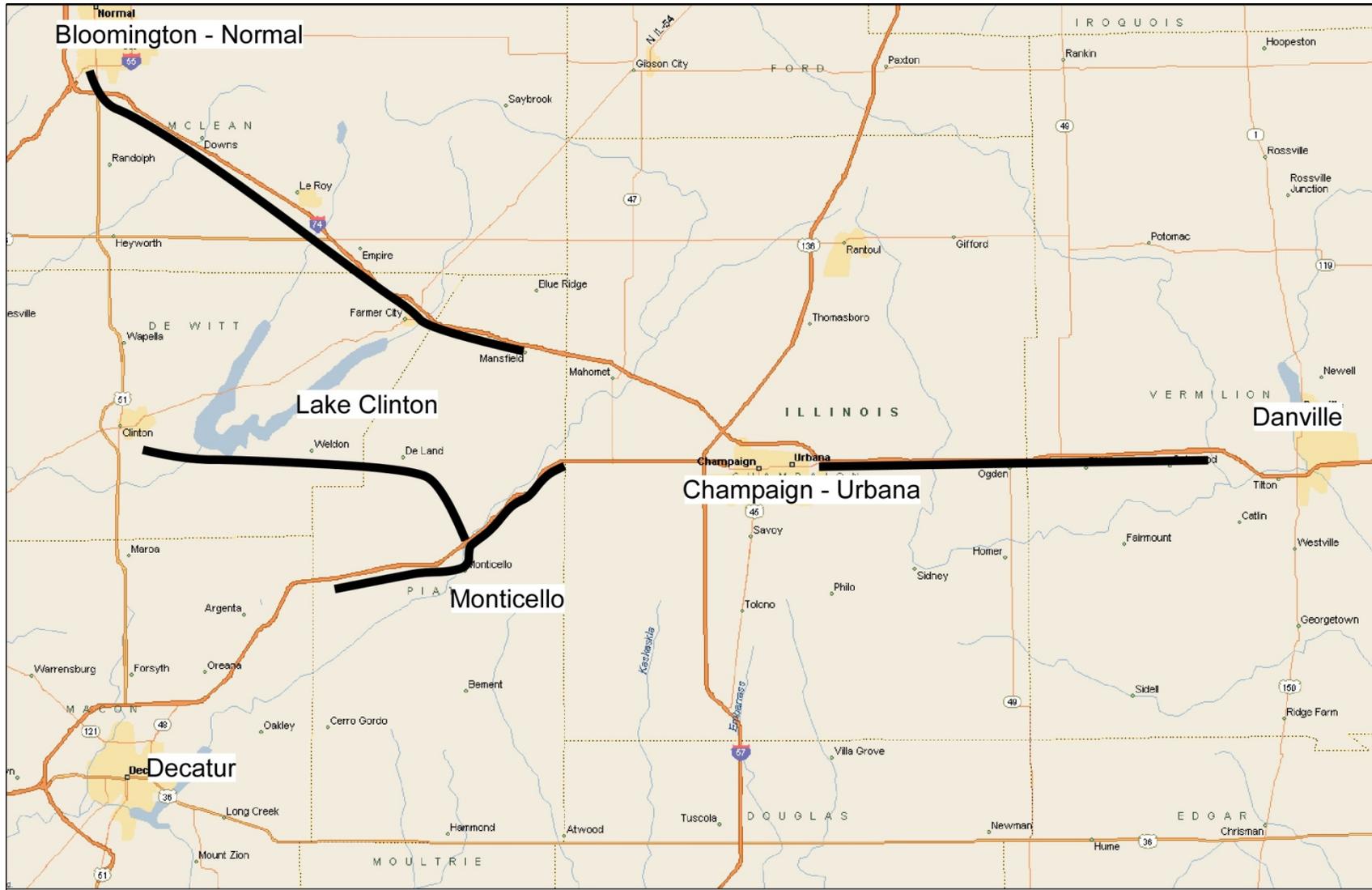
### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Continue seeking funding for the proposed Monticello River Walk and Bikeway Project.
  - a. Break the plan into smaller sections, some of which may be eligible for other funding sources such as Illinois Bike Path, OSLAD or RTP grants
  - b. Construct sections using local donations and city resources
2. With the new Master plan for the Multi-Sports Complex, modify the proposed plans to show the importance of this connection
3. Create additional signed bike routes and on-road bike lane systems that will provide connections until sidepath trails become available.

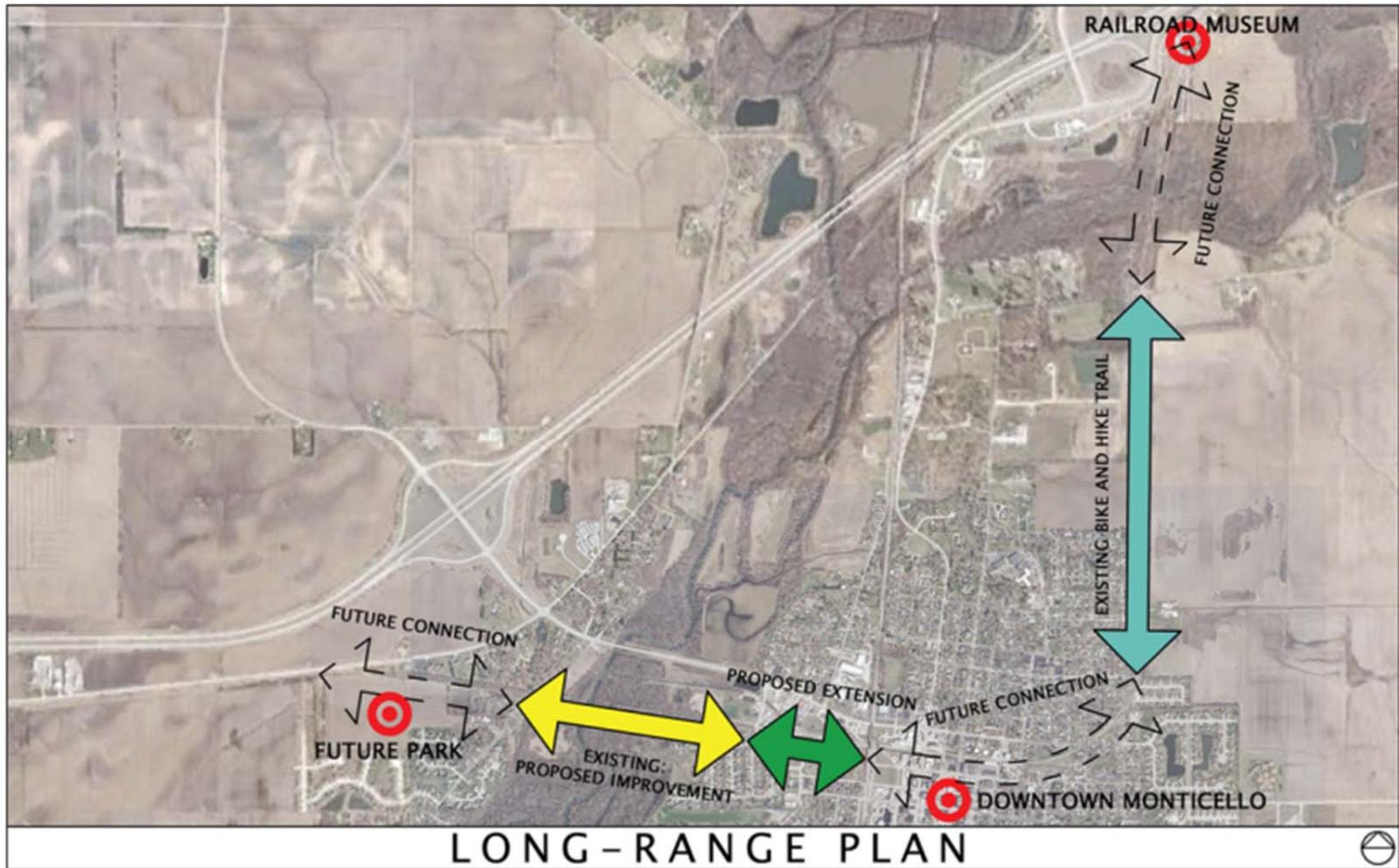
4. Create a 'Safety Town', to be used in teaching small children the Bicycle Rules of the Road, railroad crossing, and road safety.
5. Continue negotiations with private landowner(s) of the current and old railroad beds for trail expansion. Some trail areas offer extra potential in highlighting unique environmental systems and habitats. Trail development should be sensitive to these areas, and celebrate them with educational signage and exhibits.
6. As of August 1, 2013 the City is negotiating additional right-of way that will connect the existing trail to the proposed Sports Park.

Note:

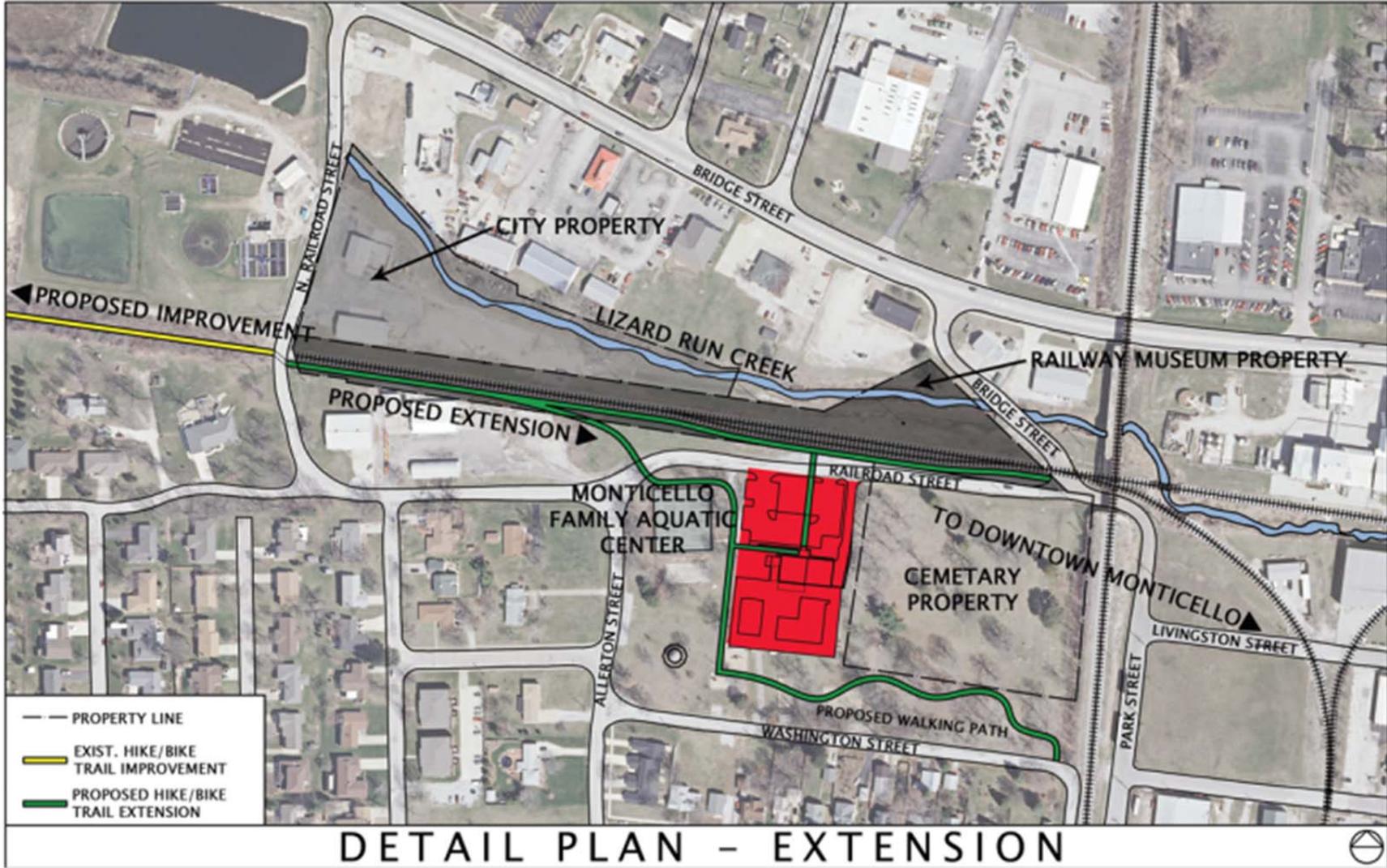
The following bike trail plan exhibits are provided by the City and their Bike planning consultant.

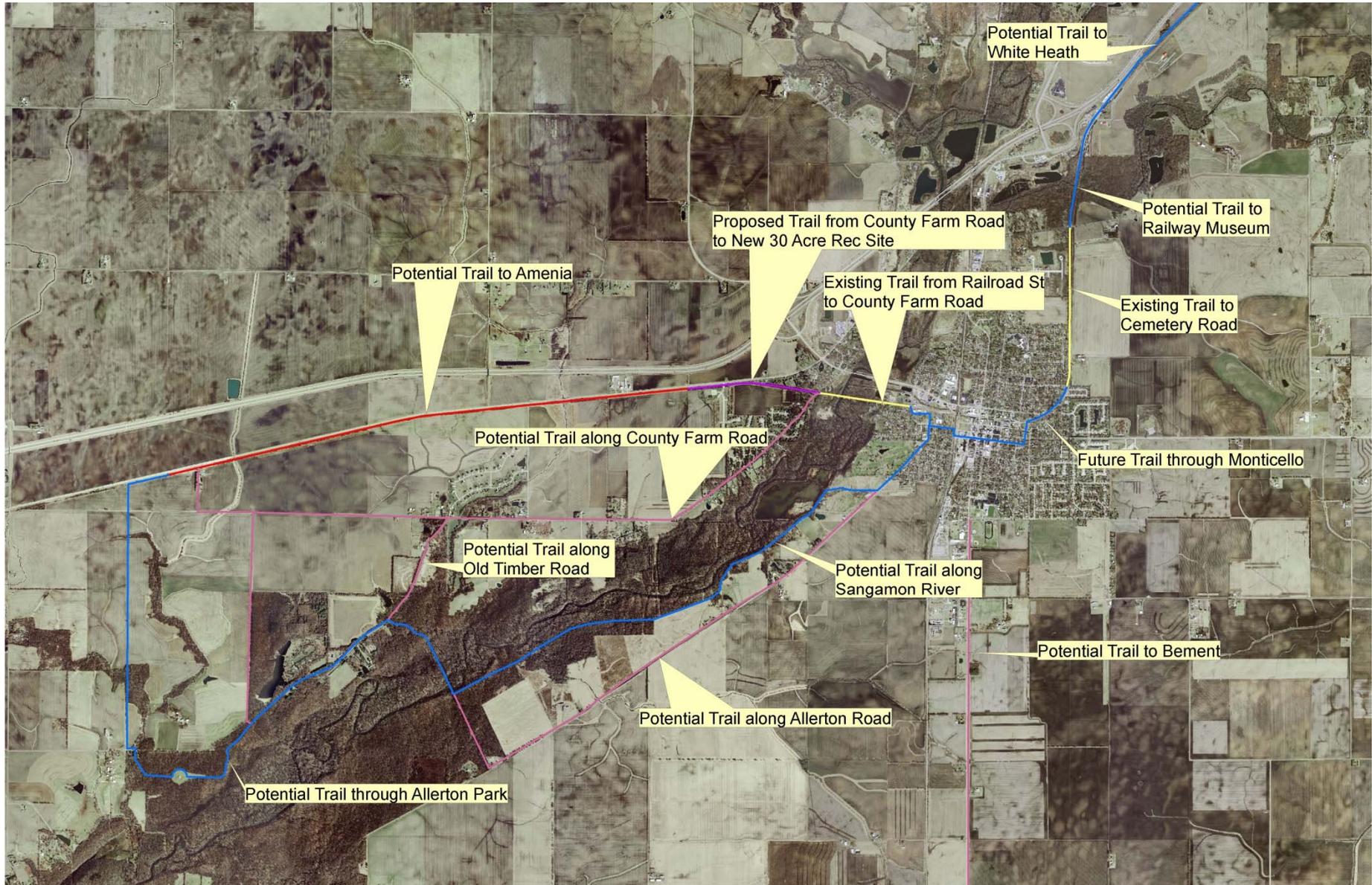


## REGIONAL BIKE PLAN









**LOCAL AREA BIKE PLAN**

## TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS

The following guidelines are intended to suggest standards for the design and development of the proposed Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail System for the City of Monticello. These guidelines will help encourage safety as well as proper construction standards, assuring longevity of the trail system.

Following the design standards is a discussion that differentiates different types of trails, from Shared – Use paths to Side Paths to On-Road lanes. Each is a distinct type of trail that has its own requirements for layout and construction. This section is not meant to be a comprehensive Bicycle Plan for Monticello, but merely an indicator of the complexity and required work needed to provide a good trail network.

The design and development of the trail system should be in accordance with the Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, August 1999 edition as published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and as supplemented by any special requirements of the City of Monticello.

### BICYCLIST OPERATING SPACE:

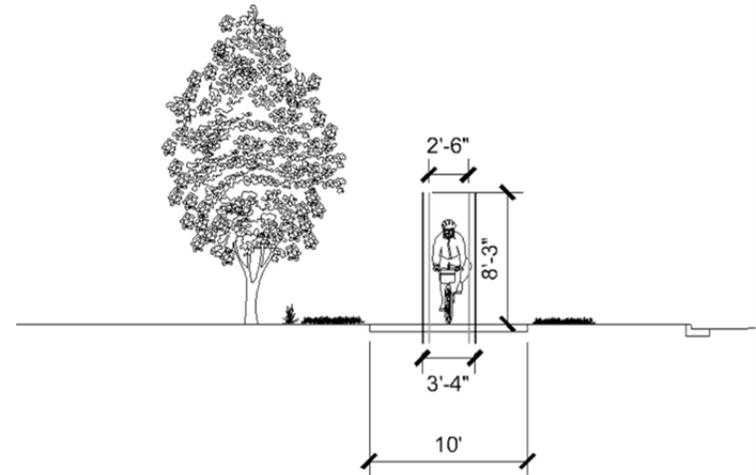
Every bike rider has a comfort zone, be it next to another bike rider, an adjacent fence, or the edge of a road or sidewalk.

### DESIGN SPEED

In. general, a minimum design speed of 20 mph will be used for bicycles on the trail. However, when the grade exceeds four (4%) percent, a design speed of 30 mph is advisable.

### HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT

The minimum horizontal radius of curvature at 20 mph will be 30 feet, and at 30 mph, 90 feet.



## **Bicyclist Operating Space**

1. Comfort zone is 3'-4" wide.
2. Maneuvering room is 5' wide for one bicycle.

### SUPER-ELEVATION

For most trail applications, the super-elevation rate will vary from a minimum of 2% percent (the minimum necessary for adequate drainage) to a maximum of approximately 5¼ percent. The minimum super-elevation rate of 2% percent will be adequate for most conditions.

### GRADES

1. Vertical grade: Grades on the trail should be kept to a minimum, although it may not be possible in some areas. A grade of five (5%) percent should not be longer than 800 feet. A grade of eight (8%) percent (12:1) will be the maximum to allow for handicapped accessibility.

2. Horizontal grade: The trail surface will be sloped in one direction at the maximum rate of two (2%) percent (1/4" per foot).
3. Existing roadway: The grade for trails adjacent to and part of an existing roadway will be the same as the roadway.

### SIGHT AND STOPPING DISTANCE

Sight and stopping distance is the distance required to see an obstruction, react to it, and brake to stop. The formulas and charts in the Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities should be used for each special location to insure minimum safe sight and stopping distances.

### WIDTHS AND CLEARANCES

The paved width and the operating width required for a shared use path are primary design considerations. The current recommendation would be for all primary trails to have a minimum width of (10 feet), not including area needed for shoulders. There is also discussion of new standards being developed by AASHTO stating that trail widths be a minimum of 12 feet. Secondary trails would have a minimum width of 8 feet.

1. Width: Under most conditions, a recommended paved width for a two-directional shared use path is 10 feet. In some instances, a reduced width of 8 feet can be adequate. This reduced width should be used only where the following conditions apply:
  - Bike traffic is expected to be low, even on peak days or during peak hours
  - Pedestrian use of the facility is not expected to be more than occasional
  - There will be good horizontal and vertical alignment providing safe and frequent passing opportunities

- During normal maintenance activities the path will not be subjected to maintenance vehicle loading conditions that would cause pavement edge damage

2. Clearance: A minimum 2 Foot wide level graded shoulder with grass is required on each side for safety clearance.
3. Overhead clearance: Vertical clearance should be a minimum of 10 feet above the trail.

### TRAIL BRIDGES

1. Width on bridges for trails: New bridges should be constructed with a minimum width of 10 feet. On existing bridges, an 8 foot width is acceptable.
2. Minimum loads: Bridges designed for bicycles should be designed for pedestrian live loads. Where maintenance and emergency vehicles may be expected to cross the bridge, the design should accommodate them. Always try to provide a barrier to use by unauthorized vehicles.
3. Handrails on both sides of the trail structure should be 42" high.
4. Expansion joints: On all bridge decks, bicycle safe expansion joints should be used at all joints and transition points.

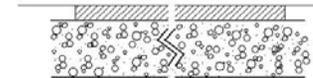


## SURFACES

1. **LIMESTONE SCREENINGS SURFACE COURSE:** A two (2") inch compacted thickness of limestone screenings (FA should be placed and compacted on the prepared aggregate base course. The finished surface should meet all minimum slope requirements, and be free of ruts, depressions, or humps.
2. **BITUMINOUS SURFACE COURSE:** A two (2") inch compacted thickness of bituminous asphalt surface course should be placed on the prepared aggregate base course. The finished surface should meet all minimum slope requirements and compaction tests.
3. **CONCRETE SURFACE:** The concrete surface should be a minimum thickness of five (5') inches of

concrete on an aggregate base course, and 6" thick where it crosses driveways, farm lanes, or other areas where vehicular traffic is anticipated. The concrete should have a minimum breaking point of 3000 p.s.i., at 28 days and the finished surface should have a cross slope of 1/4" per foot. Broom finish tooled joints every 5 feet. Expansion joints every 100 feet.

NOTE: THE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH IDOT'S "STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION."



2" COMPACTED BITUMINOUS CONCRETE SURFACE COURSE (TYPE 2, MIX D)

8" COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE COURSE TYPE B (CA-6 GRADATION)

GEOTEXTILE FABRIC (NON-WOVEN)

PREPARED AND COMPACTED SUBGRADE (95% OF THE STANDARD PROCTOR DENSITY)

## Asphalt Trail Construction

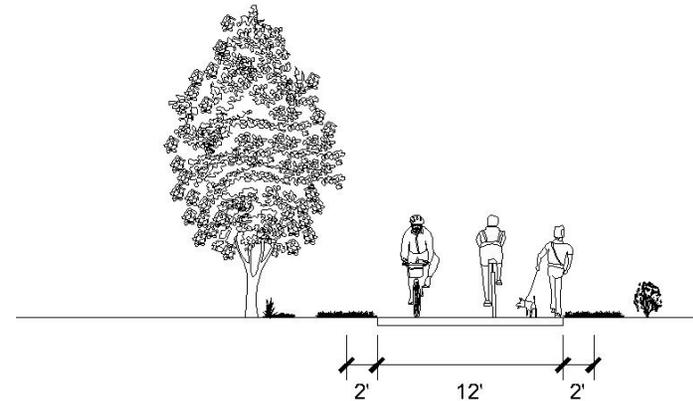
1. Minimum 10' width - 12' width preferred.
2. Keep a 2' clear shoulder on each side.
3. Underlay with geotextile fabric unless subgrade meets strength req'ts.
4. Extend aggregate base by 6" past asphalt to prevent edge deterioration.
5. Slope path 2% side to side for drainage.

## TRAIL TYPES

### *A. SHARED USE TRAILS*

- usually created for off-road recreational use, connecting parks and greenways
- striping may be required if use is heavy
- when subject to multiple uses, (roller blading, skateboarding, jogging) higher widths are encouraged
- should be signed to indicate destination points

As stated throughout the trail guideline, AASHTO stresses safe as well as sound management, “Safe, convenient and well-designed facilities are essential to encourage bicycle use- This guide is designed to provide direction on the development of facilities to enhance and encourage safe bicycle travel”. Shared use paths are facilities with non exclusive rights and with minimal cross flow by motor vehicles. Users are non-motorized and may include but are not limited to: bicyclists, in-line skaters, roller skaters, wheelchair users (both non-motorized and motorized) and pedestrians, including walkers, runners, people with baby strollers, people walking dogs, etc”.



### **Shared Use Trails**

1. Minimum 10' width - 12' width preferred w/ heavy use.
2. Keep a 2' clear shoulder on each side.
3. Center stripe can be painted to separate lanes.
4. Overhead clearance 10' minimum.
5. Asphalt paving recommended w/ heavy use.

## ***B. SIDE PATH TRAILS***

- usually created for transportation use, connecting commercial centers, schools, and parks
- usually designed to keep bicycles off of streets because of perceived safety
- striping is recommended
- clear signage is necessary because of frequent pedestrian and vehicular encounters
- higher widths encouraged to allow for bicycle speed
- often used in lieu of pedestrian sidewalks

Only when it has been determined that on-road improvements or shared use trails through greenways or parks are not feasible, a side path should be considered as a bicycle route.

### 1. Available Right-of-Way

To accommodate the minimum standard for bicycle/multi-use paths, there should be 20 feet of available right-of-way. This is necessary to provide for a 2-foot clear zone from obstructions, a 10-foot wide trail, and a 5-foot buffer/open space which separates the path from the road.

(Per AASHTO standards, if there is less than a 5-foot buffer width, a 4.5 foot high physical barrier needs to be constructed.)

### 2. Number of Street and Driveway Intersections

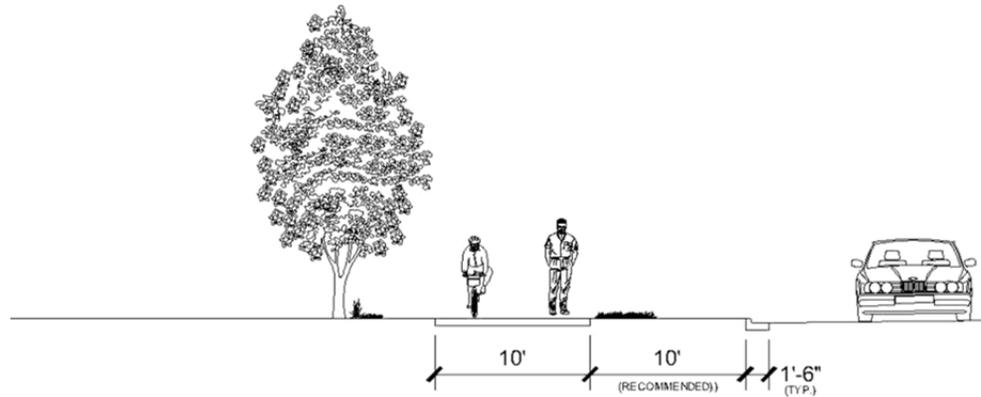
Studies show that bicyclists who ride on sidewalks or side paths incur 1.8 times greater risk of being involved in a collision with a motor vehicle than those who ride on the roadway. This risk increases for path users who are traveling against traffic — they have been found to be 4.5 times at risk as right-way side path travelers — because motor vehicle operators are not looking for bicycles or other

traffic off of the roadway and/or coming from the opposite direction.

For this reason, side paths should not be considered when there are more than 12 residential driveways, 6 commercial drives/minor streets, or 3 major street intersections per mile. Beyond this, a cyclist would face more than 1 driveway every 30 seconds, or 1 street every minute, whereby the safety and utility of the path deteriorates dramatically. Commercial strips or other areas with heavy vehicular turning movements are particularly dangerous.

### 3. Final Design Considerations

The above two criteria are most important to assess feasibility during the planning stages of a project. However, when the side path moves into the design and construction phase, additional problems will need to be resolved, such as providing access to destinations located on the opposite side of the street from the side path, modifying signal timing to permit non-motorized users to move through an intersection without being hit by turning traffic, removing obstructions from sight triangles, locating crosswalks a proper distance from the parallel roadway, and providing appropriate curb cuts and transition areas so that bicyclists may access the path from both the parallel and intersecting streets. However, in no instance should development of a side path preclude bicyclist use of the adjacent roadway.



## Side Path - Parallel to Street

1. Provide adequate separation between path and vehicle traffic.
2. Guardrails or barriers may be necessary - do not design protrusions toward path.
3. Try to keep driveway and road crossings to a minimum.
4. 12' width recommended for heavy bike travel and pedestrian use.
5. Provide warning and stop signs at intersections.

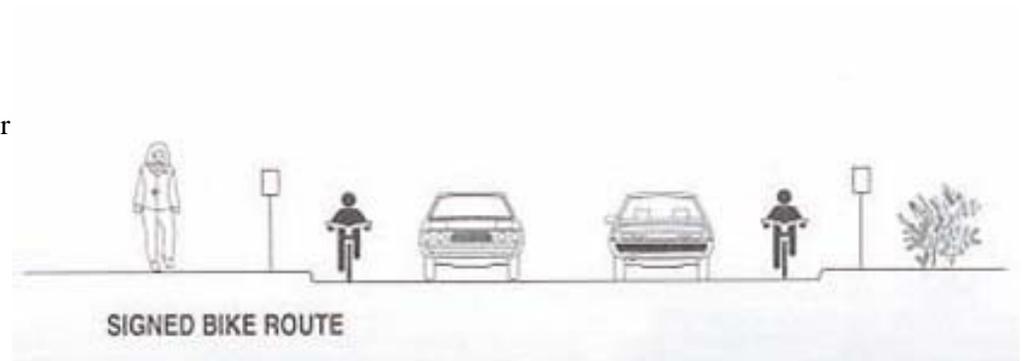
### ***C. ON-ROAD TRAIL SYSTEMS***

- usually created for transportation use, connecting commercial centers, schools, and parks
- designed on road to reduce sidewalk and pedestrian conflict
- striping is recommended
- clear signage is necessary because of frequent pedestrian and vehicular encounters
- higher widths encouraged to allow for bicycle speed
- often used in lieu of pedestrian sidewalks

Only when it has been determined that on-road improvements or shared use trails through greenways or parks are not feasible, a side path should be considered as a bicycle route.

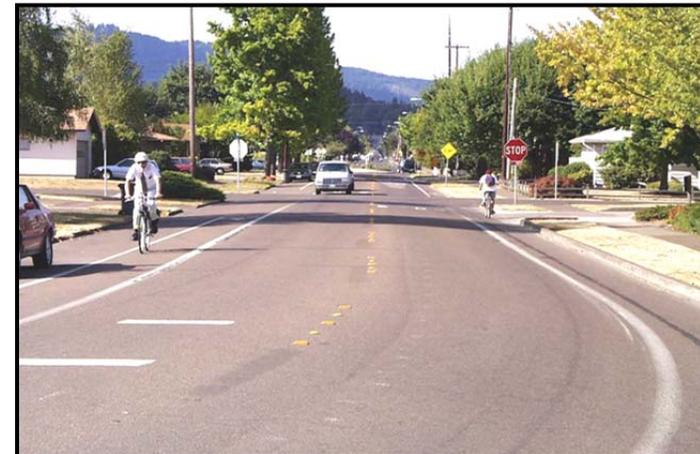
#### **1) ON-STREET SIGNED ROUTES**

- signed on-street routes are designated to assist novice or recreational cyclists to choose routes that are comfortable for cycling
- distinct lanes are not required
- best in areas with low speeds and few driveways
- street routes should be signed to indicated destination points



## 2) BIKE LANES

- a single lane within a vehicular roadway designated for bicycles only
- minimum of 4 feet width, always separated with a stripe from traffic
- contra-flow bicycle lanes are installed only in key locations to allow bicycles to travel in both directions, usually on a one-way street – other uses are highly discouraged
- Create a travel lane exclusively for bicyclists, allowing them to travel at their own pace
- Bicyclists can pass motor vehicles stopped at intersections
- Guide cyclists in a manner that is consistent with good operation
- Place cyclists close to the flow of traffic, making cyclists more visible and their movements more predictable to drivers
- Reduce bicycle/pedestrian conflicts as cyclists no longer ride on sidewalks



## **BICYCLING FAQ'S<sup>1</sup>**

### **What is a bike lane and who is permitted to use them?**

Bicycle lanes are marked lanes in the public right-of-way that are for use by bicyclists. Bike lanes are usually striped with a 6” stripe separating the bike lane from the vehicle travel lane, and a 4” stripe separating the bike lane from the parking lane. If there no on-street parking, then the bike lane is against the curb and no 4” stripe is necessary.

Bike lanes are marked with a bike symbol and arrow indicating the direction of travel. Motorists are not allowed to travel or park in the bike lanes and are subject to a fine if they do so. They are allowed to cross the lanes when turning or when entering or exiting a legal parking space.

### **Can bicyclists still use the roadway where there is a bike lane?**

Cyclists are still permitted to travel in the regular vehicle travel lanes even when a bike lane is present. When making a left turn, a bicyclist is expected to make the turn from the left lane and not the bike lane. Cyclists should signal and make sure it is clear before moving into the vehicle travel lane. Motorists should always be aware that cyclists may merge to avoid an obstacle in the bicycle lane or may need to move to the appropriate lane to make a left hand turn.

### **Why put bicyclists on the street; why not on sidewalks or bike paths?**

Sidewalks are for pedestrians. Bicycle use on sidewalks with high numbers of pedestrians results in crashes and injuries for both bicyclists and pedestrians. In most cases, the street is the safest place for bicyclists to ride. National studies have shown that riding on the sidewalk (and especially when riding against traffic in the wrong direction) is a significant contributor to car/bike collisions because the motorist is not looking for a relatively fast moving vehicle on the sidewalk.

Bicycles are legal vehicles and bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists when traveling on the street. Many cities prohibit persons 12 years and older from riding on the sidewalk unless it is specifically posted for bicycle use. Bicycle paths (trails or shared use paths) are good facilities for some trips, but have limited usefulness for most needed trips throughout the city.

Bike lanes encourage bicyclists to use the street as opposed to the sidewalk, which eases congestion and improves safety on the sidewalks. Streets by their very nature serve the bicyclist in the same way they serve every other user: they get people where they want to go. The street system is already in place and streets provide access to virtually all destinations: homes, businesses, shops, schools, churches, parks, etc. There is not enough space or money to create separated bike paths all over the City.

### **What happens to the car parking?**

In many cases, on-street parking is not affected by installing bike lanes. The bike lane is striped between the parking lane and the motor vehicle travel lane. In some isolated instances, one or two parking spaces may be lost near an intersection to provide proper alignment and sight distances.

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<sup>1</sup> Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

**Will bike lanes slow down traffic?**

Bike lanes have been shown to reduce the speeds of motor vehicles in adjacent lanes by about 5 miles per hour. This usually benefits most urban streets because they work best when cars are traveling between 25 and 35 miles per hour. Overall travel times on streets with bike lanes usually remain the same. Bike lanes help to calm and organize the traffic. That means fewer accidents. That’s because bike lanes help create a buffer zone at the edge of the traffic lane. This buffer improves safety for people entering or exiting their parked cars and makes it easier for drivers to see children about to enter the roadway—giving them more time to react.

**How do you get cyclists to obey the laws? I never see cyclists stop at stop signs.**

All groups (motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians) are human beings and they don’t always obey the laws. If you were to go out to a stop sign at any location you would see all of these user groups not behaving correctly. Enforcement needs to be reasonable, design needs to be good, and users need to be educated.

**It seems that when you add a bike lane it gives cyclists permission to ignore traffic lights and stop signs.**

Actually the opposite is true. National studies have shown that bike lanes influence positive behavior and improve safety. Well designed facilities encourage proper behavior and decrease the likelihood of crashes. Bike lanes have also been shown to discourage riding on the sidewalk, which is illegal and hazardous for adult bicyclists.

## **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

### **FEDERAL FUNDING - ITEP / RTP / CMAQ / STP**

The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is a federal program that was initiated to help build and refurbish complimentary features to the nation's roadway system. Funding was broken into several categories with different names and proportional allotments of funding. Projects include downtown revitalization, on and off-road bicycle trails, rest areas, and pedestrian bridges. This program is constantly reviewed for funding, and may not always be available.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is part of the federal funds that is governed by the state for the construction and rehabilitation of trails. The RTP program can provide up to 80% federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR no later than March 1 of each calendar year. Awards are generally announced within 180 days following the application deadline date.

Examples of eligible project activities include:

1. trail construction and rehabilitation;
2. restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized trail uses;
3. construction of trail-related support facilities and amenities; and
4. acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors through easements or fee simple title.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is a similar program based on eliminating vehicle trips and vehicle emissions through proper placement of bicycle trails and other forms of alternative transportation. This program is more definitive in requirements, and can be used for on-and off-road trails.

Local and State Programmed Surface Transportation Program (STP) Many local planning councils give priority to road projects that include bicycle or pedestrian accommodations during the programming of the local Surface Transportation Program, and some have made stand-alone bike/pedestrian projects eligible for these funds. The City of Chicago used local STP funds for the development of its Streets for Cycling Plan. In the FY01-04 Transportation Improvement Program, 12% of all locally programmed STP projects included some attention to the walking and cycling environment.

### **BIKE PATH PROGRAM**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) sponsors an annual grant program to financially assist eligible units of government acquire, construct, and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities, including the acquisition of pathway corridors, and the construction of off-road bicycle trails. These trails must connect specific destination points, such as forest preserves, parks, schools, and community centers. Grants are available to any local government agency having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes.



Financial assistance up to 50% of approved project costs is available through the program. Maximum grant awards for development projects are limited to \$200,000 per annual request; no maximum exists for acquisition projects. Eligible project costs include:

1. Linear corridor land acquisition costs, including associated appraisal fees
2. Bicycle path development or renovation including site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, signage, and directly related support facilities such as potable water and restroom facilities.

This program has not been funded for the last several years, however, it was announced that the Program will again be active in 2014 with \$ 1 million in funding.

### **SNOW MOBILE TRAIL PROGRAM**

for local governments is financed from the registration fees of snowmobiles and provides up to 50% reimbursement of approved facility development/rehabilitation costs and 90% of approved trail corridor land acquisition costs for public snowmobile trails and areas in the state. This program is available to any unit of local government located in a region of Illinois with sufficient snow cover and having statutory authority to acquire and develop lands for public park and recreation purposes.

Examples of eligible project costs that would benefit bicycle trails include:

1. Land acquisition for snowmobile areas / trail corridors;
2. Snowmobile trail construction and signage;
3. Parking areas, security lighting, restroom facilities, and warming shelters.

## INITIATIVE GRANTS

During positive budget years, State government has traditionally allowed individual legislative districts to plan for and fund a myriad of projects throughout the state, ranging from purchase of fire trucks to the construction of a new playground. As state budgets fluctuate, so does the availability of this type of funding. It does, however, stress the fact that many local projects can receive legislative assistance if it is requested. The City should strive to maintain positive working relationships and support of their local legislators.

## OTHER RESOURCES

Your planning efforts need not be constrained by limited implementation resources; a "grand plan" can become your tool for attracting them! For example, in competitive project selection processes, projects included in comprehensive plans often have an edge over stand-alone projects. A strategy of combining funding and other resources can be used to enlarge the pool of available resources. Whether you are trying to implement a comprehensive multi-year bicycle plan or complete a specific project, the strategies and programs described below can help you secure the resources you need.

- **Piggybacking** - It is more cost effective to include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations into a larger scale transportation project than it is to retrofit. Seek out opportunities to get involved in the early planning stages.
  1. **Road and Transit Projects.** Refer to the policies and bikeway network in your bicycle plan to help justify the accommodation of cyclists in local road projects. If a road is being resurfaced, work with the implementation agency to restripe it to include bicycle lanes or wide curb lanes. If a bridge is being reconstructed, make sure cyclists and pedestrians will have a way to safely and comfortably get across it. If a train station is being built, make sure pedestrians and cyclists have a way to easily access it. These processes don't necessarily require special money for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, but they do require working closely with IDOT, County DOTs and local public works departments. Participating in the early design stages of a project is highly recommended, as in the case of the South Lake Shore Drive Preliminary Engineering Study.
  2. **Development Projects.** Another no-cost implementation strategy is to pass ordinances that require new developments to be designed in accordance with your bicycle and pedestrian plans. For example, ordinances and zoning can mandate including sidewalks, providing bicycle parking, designing streets that discourage speeding and building car parking facilities that minimize pedestrian conflicts at entrance and exit points.
- **TIF Districts.**

These revenues can be used to improve conditions for walkers and cyclists as part of larger development projects. Arlington Heights used TIF money to help pay for the reconstruction of its pedestrian and bicycle friendly Metra station.

- **Partnerships**

1. Chambers of Commerce and tourism can promote shopping and visiting by foot and bike. In Woodridge, the local chamber of commerce prints and distributes a community map that includes bikeways. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs also administers grants and provides technical assistance through programs such as the Illinois Main Street Program.
2. Law enforcement officials can promote bicycle safety as part of their school outreach efforts.
3. Health care providers can promote walking and biking as ways to avoid a physically inactive lifestyle. The Illinois Department of Public Health, Nutrition, and Physical Activity Section is promoting the value of walking and biking for purposeful trips, like errands and work commutes.
4. Employers can create incentives for employees to walk or cycle by providing showers, bike parking, a guaranteed ride home in an emergency, flex time, transit subsidies, and the cash equivalent of free parking benefits. The suburban bike rack program can help with bicycle parking needs. Also visit [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org) (a resource in Washington, DC with good advice for employers on promoting bike commuting).
5. Schools can promote the benefits of cycling and walking. Community groups can contribute time and labor to the planning and construction of facilities. In Batavia, volunteer labor made possible a new river walk.
6. Cycling and walking groups are a source of vocal and knowledgeable advocates willing to assist in planning and lobbying for improvements. The League of Illinois Bicyclists maintains a list of local bicycle clubs. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and the Center for Neighborhood Technology are also good resources. Advocacy organizations can provide lobbying support, technical assistance and funding.

## **SECTION 7**

# **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND FUNDING**

## **PRIORITIES**

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The City of Monticello is a non-home rule unit located in central Piatt County, Illinois. The City of Monticello is operated under a Mayor Council form of government serving 5,138 residents (2000 Census). The City of Monticello operates under a total operating budget of approximately \$9,977,000 (FY 2010-2011) and employs approximately 150 full and part-time employees. The Monticello Fire Department, Monticello Police Department and Monticello Parks and Recreation Department also operate under the jurisdiction and monetary authority of the municipality.

Implementation and consistent follow-through of the plan requires constant evaluation and prioritization of plan elements. Time can bring changes, and flexibility is key to responsible development.

The following is a categorized break down of the Park System Priorities that make up the 5 year Budget Plan.

### **Park Enhancements**

Another priority is in the area of the existing park improvements. For these improvements, refer to the section of Existing Park enhancements. Existing parks must be constantly upgraded and improved if they are to continue their usefulness. Refer to the IDNR Useful life tables for a better understanding of existing park improvements, and what will continue to be needed in the future.

- Nick's Park
  - New playground
  - ADA modifications
  - Parking improvements
- Burgess Park
  - Land Acquisition

- Park Entry
- Playground development
- ½ court basketball

Acquisition of park sites should remain a high priority as long as need for additional recreation facilities presents itself. Participation and sports trends will drive this need. This may be partially resolved by changing intended uses or site redesign.

Acquisition priorities should be given to the following:

- Acquisition of park space in those planning areas / neighborhoods identified as needing additional park space to achieve neighborhood or community needs. Identification of prime site(s) may be long term, and require purchase and demolition of existing structures.
- Priorities for land addition (because of connectivity)
  - Burgess Park
  - Merry Park
- Additional Trail Connections to Piatt County Forest Preserves and nearby communities

As policy, acquisitions should consider geographic equity in the distribution of services, and attention to preventing over-programming of parks and facilities. The City should also create a strategy that utilizes creative options that can entice property owners and have advantages for both the property owner and the City. The Conservation Foundation (Naperville, Il.) has a “tool box” of options as follows:

1. Purchase at fair market value.
2. Purchase of property for less than its fair market value—a bargain sale. The difference between the purchase price and the property's market value can be claimed as a charitable deduction by the property owner.

3. Purchase of a property in which the sales price is paid in two or more installments. If the installments are spread over two or more years it may benefit the seller's tax situation.
4. Outright donation of property.
5. Donation of property at death by will.
6. Donation or sale of property with seller retaining the right to continue to use and live on the property until death--life estate.
7. Donation or purchase of a conservation easement from a property owner.

A conservation easement is a legal document that spells out what can and what cannot be done on a property. In most cases a conservation easement will prohibit or limit development of the property. Easements "run with the land" which means that future owners, no matter how they acquire the land, must abide by the terms of the easement. Easements are "donated" or sold to a conservation organization or government entity who accepts the responsibility to monitor the easement and to enforce its terms. The entity has no ownership in the land—just the responsibility to ensure that the easement is being followed.

### **Bike / Walking / Jogging Trails**

A top priority is providing multi-purpose trails within the Park Department and park system. As most of the parks do not have suitable off-road connections, multi-purpose trails will be limited to those that can be incorporated into individual parks, in some cases, short on-road connections may be possible through local streets. Additionally, trails should be planned toward connections to regional or inter-community trial links where possible. This process will not be easy, and is sure to become a long term effort potentially requiring land acquisition or procurement of conservation easements.

- Trail west towards Bloomington – Normal and Decatur
- Trail east towards Champaign and Danville

- Completion of Riverwalk and connections at Burke Park

### **Facility Improvements**

Facilities should be studied for potential improvements to efficiency and lowering of utility costs. Energy efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, storm water re-use are just some of the potential improvements. A separate study should be performed on buildings and structures in the City.

### **Facility Development**

Continuing development of facilities for programming as well as support and maintenance will continue to be a priority as long as the community continues to grow. The Park Department should look for duplications throughout the community and determine partnership opportunities helping to help control long term costs, such as school – parks, expanded gymnasiums and classrooms, and shared indoor pool facilities. As schools modernize and / or expand, opportunities may arise to share facilities and construction costs.

Other facilities indicated by the public:

- Skate Park
- Community / Athletic complexes
- Safety Town
- Outdoor Cultural Arts Theatre
- Teen Center
- Improved tennis facility, possibly lighted for after work play

## CAPITAL FUNDING PLAN

In budgeting for parks improvements, the current budget system of Monticello does not effectively help manage resources and budgets from year to year. Although called a 5-year plan, it does not allocate funds on an annual basis. There are several annual Capital improvement Funds across different cost centers. Parks and Recreation, however, share a Capital Improvement budget with Streets and Transportation. Rec has no separate budget. Because of this, Recreation improvements can get lost in the shuffle with street improvements. While transportation projects are very important, the typical cost can easily deplete funds and delay or even cancel park funding. The process is to list projects and potential costs, including park maintenance items, in the same budget. but without expectation or direction of timing. Costs are simply totaled, and the expenses are allocated per budget availability each year. Decisions are based on discussions between staff and the elected Board.

These items are then taken off as they are accomplished. Long-term budget projection is difficult to achieve, and the budget is subject to change on a whim by Board members or staff.

Budgeting should be better planned with a system that allocates a separate Maintenance and Capital Improvement Budget for Parks. This allows maintenance items to be separate from park improvements. A new truck, or brand new playground is a Capital expenditure. Replacing that playground, or re-paving a tennis court is a capital replacement project. Painting a building, or re-caulking is an example of maintenance that extends the useful life of a capital expenditure. Denoting these as separate funds will allow the board and staff will be able to focus on actual park improvements, and discuss future projects with residents.

It is suggested that a Capital Replacement Budget format be created to help project future budgetary expenses. This type of budget tool forecasts replacements costs of large cost items, such as roofs, vehicles, playgrounds, court resurfacing, etc..., but with a difference – a useful life is attached to each item, thereby allowing the park manager to

forecast an approximate timeline for future replacements. For example, a new truck may be determined to have a useful life of 7 years. By allowing a 3% increase in cost for each of the 7 years, the manager can approximate how much the truck will cost to replace, and already have part of his budget assembled for 7 years from now. By placing all large budget items on the replacement timeline, the Park Department can adjust timing of replacements and improvements so that annual budgets meet available resources, and “flatten out” any expense spikes. For instance, if several vehicles and playgrounds were all purchased in the same year, this will be a heavy burden if all replaced at once. The manager can adjust replacement times to lower annual costs, thereby potentially matching the projected revenues of that year. An example follows.

## STEPS FOR A CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PLAN

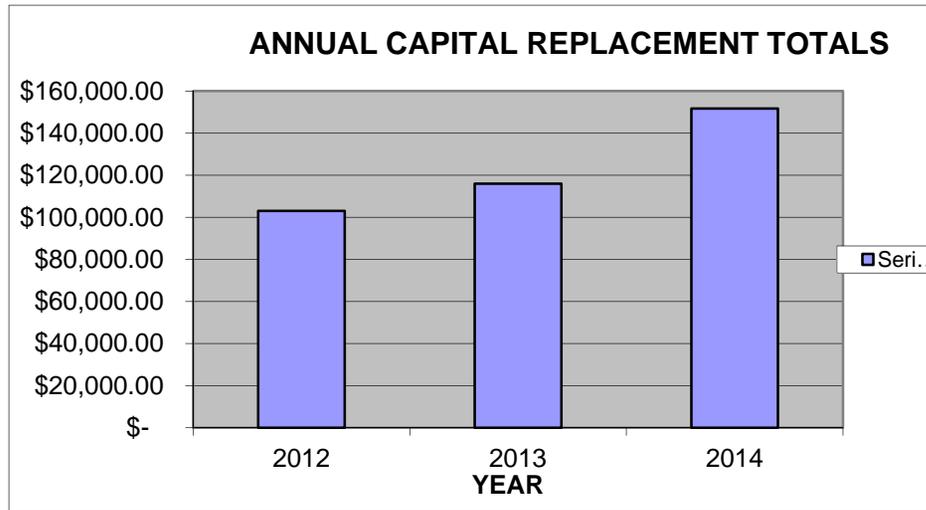
1. Develop a policy with appropriate guidelines for the establishment of a capital repair/ replacement fund.
2. Determine specific asset categories which will be funded.
3. Inventory all assets into these categories.
4. Determine guidelines for the useful life of each asset.
5. Determine current replacement or repair costs for each asset category.
6. Apply the useful life and unit costs to each asset to develop a series of annual costs.
7. Place the cost of each asset into a 10-year schedule by category and facility.
8. Summarize the use of funds by category and facility to determine annual requirements.
9. Determine options available for funding sources and methods.
10. Balance income with annual cost requirements.
11. "Smooth out" the schedule over 10 years. Review, rearrange, and upgrade costs on an annual basis. By creating this in spreadsheet form, it is easy to sort, chart, and print in various scenarios.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Capital repair/replacement fund promotes good budgeting” Illinois Parks and Recreation 20 July/August 1984

## REPLACEMENT FUND - 3 YEAR PROJECTION

2012 REPLACEMENT LIST								
CATEGORY	LOCATION	UNIT	TOTAL UNITS	COST/UNIT	TOTAL REPLACEMENT COST	ACQUISITION DATE	LIFE EXPECTANCY	REPLACEMENT DATE
1998 GMC SIERRA 3/4 TON PICKUP	VEHICLE	1		21000	25410.00	2005	7	2012
1998 GMC SIERRA 3500 DUMP TRUCK	VEHICLE	1		22000	26620.00	2005	7	2012
TENNIS COURTS (2) - color	JESK PARK	1600	Sq. yard	5	10400.00	2002	10	2012
DUG OUT BENCHES (8)	JESK PARK	8	Each	750	8700.00	1997	15	2012
BACKSTOP	FRIENDLY OAKS	1	Each	5000	8000.00	1992	20	2012
TENNIS COURTS (2) - color	FRIENDLY OAKS	1600	Sq. yard	5	10400.00	2002	10	2012
PARKING AREA	FRIENDLY OAKS				0.00	1992	20	2012
TENNIS COURTS	EL MORRO PARK	1600	Sq. yard	5	10400.00	2002	10	2012
NETS AT NEIGHBOR FENCELINE	CONVENT PARK	1	Each		0.00	2005	7	2012
SIGN	CONVENT PARK	1	Each		0.00	2005	7	2012
MAINTENANCE GARAGE ROOF	CENTRAL PARK	30	Square	60	3150.00	1987	25	2012
HORSESHOE COURT	CENTRAL PARK	1	Each	0	0.00	2005	7	2012
PICNIC TABLES	CENTRAL PARK		Each	0	0.00	2005	7	2012
					<b>\$ 103,080.00</b>			
2013 REPLACEMENT LIST								
CATEGORY	LOCATION	UNIT	TOTAL UNITS	COST/UNIT	TOTAL REPLACEMENT COST	ACQUISITION DATE	LIFE EXPECTANCY	REPLACEMENT DATE
PLAYGROUND	CENTRAL PARK	1	Each	80,000	116000.00	1998	15	2013
					<b>\$ 116,000.00</b>			
2014 REPLACEMENT LIST								
CATEGORY	LOCATION	UNIT	UNITS	COST/UNIT	REPLACEMENT	ACQUISITION DATE	EXPECTANCY	DATE
PLAYGROUND	LANDINGS (STEZCO) PARK	1	Each	56000	67760	2007	7	2014
PICNIC PAVILION	LANDINGS (STEZCO) PARK	1	Each	30000	36300	2007	7	2014
SIGN	LANDINGS (STEZCO) PARK	1	Each	1000	1210	2007	7	2014
PARKING AREA	LANDINGS (STEZCO) PARK	650	Sq. Yard	18	14157	2007	7	2014
PARK BENCHES (9)	LANDINGS (STEZCO) PARK	9	Each	650	7078.5	2007	7	2014
SIGN	LAGOON PARK	1	Each	1000	1210	2007	7	2014
PARK BENCHES (1)	LAGOON PARK	1	Each	500	605	2007	7	2014
BACKSTOP	JESK PARK	1	Each	7500	9075	2007	7	2014
PICNIC PAVILION - roof	JESK PARK	5	Square	60	363	2007	7	2014
BENCHES	JESK PARK	6	Each	500	3630	2007	7	2014
BENCHES (10)	EL MORRO PARK	10	Each		0	2007	7	2014
DUG OUT BENCHES (8)	DON & LORETTA GORMAN PAR	8	Each		0	2007	7	2014
PARK BENCHES (5)	DON & LORETTA GORMAN PAR	5	Each	500	3025	2007	7	2014
BENCHES (33) ?	CENTRAL PARK	10	Each	500	7250	1999	15	2014
					<b>\$ 151,663.50</b>			



The following is an example of guidelines for a Capital Replacement fund. Each agency should determine what replacement guidelines work best. These should be items of measurable lifetime, and over \$ 500 in value. One time projects or renovations should come in a capital project budget. Park related items should reflect IDNR guidelines for useful Life in order to help illustrate potential timing for OSLAD grant opportunities.

**CAPITAL REPLACEMENT / REPAIR FUND  
 ANYTOWN PARK DEPARTMENT  
 CATEGORIES AND GUIDELINES**

CATEGORIES	REPLACEMENT BASIS	REPLACEMENT GUIDELINES
1. Vehicles/Equipment		
Automobiles	each	6 Years/50,000m
Trucks (small)		7 Years/40,000m
Trucks (large)		10 Years/40,000m
Tractors		15 Years
Riding Mowers		8-10 years or less
Other		Indiv. Guidelines
2. Pavement Replacement		

Asphalt Walks	sq. yard	12-15 Years
Parking Lots	sq. yard	12-15 Years
Concrete Walks	sq. yard	15-20 Years
Sealcoating		
Asphalt Walks	sq. yard	2-3 Yrs. HEAVY
Parking Lots	sq. yard	5-6 Yrs. MEDIUM
3. Play Courts		
Tennis	sq. yard	4-6 Yrs (colorcoat)
Basketball		12-15 Yrs (resurface)
4. Roofs		
Comm. Center	sq. yard	10 Years
Museum	per square	20 Years
Linden Garage	sq. yard	10 Years
Maint. Garage	sq. yard	10 Years
Golf Course		
Lit. League	per square	15 Years
Shelters	per square	15 Years
5. Carpeting/Flooring		
Comm. Center	sq. yard +	
Golf Course	padding/inst	
Admin. Office		
6. Fencing/Backstops	each	10 Years
7. Lighting	each	20 Years
8. HVAC/Misc.		
A/C	each	contingency
Furnaces		
Copiers	each	?

Following is a breakdown of planned construction phases for the future west side park.

**MULTI-SPORT COMPLEX  
PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PHASED  
(DETAILED BUDGET ON FILE)**

**Phase 1**

1. Site grading of entire site
2. Installation of northern road and gravel through to subdivision
3. Detention basin and storm systems
4. Seeding
5. Apply for OSLAD grant # 1
6. Apply for Baseball Tomorrow grant

**Phase 2**

1. Installation of ballfields and fencing, lights
2. Construction of east parking lots
3. Construction of football fields
4. Construction of Soccer fields
5. Construction of playground
6. Apply for OSLAD Grant # 2
7. Apply for football/ soccer lighting grant

**Phase 3**

1. Construction of Picnic shelters
2. Construction of basketball court
3. Construction of trail system / fitness
4. Construction of fishing outlooks and interpretation
5. Construction of native areas
6. Construction of north parking lots
7. Construction of skate park
- 8.

Following is a list of proposed improvements and financial requirements to begin park improvements across the City. These amounts are unfunded, and merely represent budget needs if the City were to take immediate steps. The City should quickly begin allocating funds to begin these or other projects as determined by public need.

PROPOSED 5 YEAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS	FISCAL YEAR				
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
<b>Budget</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Carry Over</b>	0	0	0	400000	800000
<b>OSLAD, Other grants</b>			400000	400000	200000
<b>Total</b>	0	0	400000	800000	1000000
<b>Sports Complex</b>					
<b>Nicks Park</b>					
<b>Burgess Park Entry</b>					
<b>Burke Park</b>					
<b>Trail Expansion</b>					
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Remaining</b>	0	0	400000	800000	1000000

<b>PROPOSED 5 YEAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>					<b>Preliminary</b>
<b>OPINION OF PROBABLE COSTS</b>					
<b>Description</b>				<b>Cost</b>	
<b>Sports Complex</b>					
Pathway and concrete surrounds				\$ 28,111.11	
New Playground - Elementary				\$ 75,000.00	
New Shelter				\$ 15,000.00	
New Backstop				\$ 10,000.00	
Sand Volleyball court and perimeter fence				\$ 20,000.00	
Tennis Court Repair and Color				\$ 12,800.00	
					<b>\$ 160,911</b>
<b>Nicks Park</b>					
Passive Improvements				\$ 25,000.00	
Plantings				\$ 15,000.00	
Trail				\$ 3,000.00	
Gazebo / Trellis				\$ 15,000.00	
					<b>\$ 43,000.00</b>
<b>Acquisition for Burgess Park Entry</b>					
Land				\$ 125,000.00	
Parking				\$ 10,000.00	
Access				\$ 5,000.00	
Park Sign				\$ 1,000.00	
					<b>\$ 141,000.00</b>
<b>Burke Park</b>					
New playgrounds - themed				\$ 75,000.00	
Playground surface and curbs				\$ 20,000.00	
Pathway improvements				\$ 10,000.00	
Landscaping				\$ 5,000.00	
					<b>\$ 110,000.00</b>

<b>Trail Expansions</b>					
	Pathway improvements			\$	18,333.33
	Pathway lighting			\$	30,000.00
	Educational signage			\$	5,000.00
	Benches			\$	5,000.00
	Landscaping			\$	10,000.00
					<b>\$ 68,333.33</b>
<b>Driving Range</b>					
	Sand Traps			\$	10,000.00
	Target Areas			\$	15,000.00
					<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>
<b>Development of Sporting Clays</b>				\$	50,000.00
<b>Ropes Course</b>				\$	75,000.00

Following are the 2011 - 2013 budget showing line items for park improvements. It can be seen that recreation projects are slated along with street projects and are funded out of the General Fund.

	<b>GENERAL FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>Proposed FY 2013</b>
	<b>STREET &amp; TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS</b>	
01-51880-17	OIL & CHIP SUPPLEMENT - ANNUAL	\$ 10,000
01-51880-13	ROAD & DRAINAGE MATERIALS	\$ 20,000
01-51880.18	TRANSPORTATION IMPRV PROJ - MTIP	\$ 151,000
01-51880-01	FOXFIELd CUL-DE-SAC(S) PROJECT	\$ -
01-51880-02	HETTINGER COURT REPLACEMENT PROJECT	\$ 70,000
01-51880-14	ANNUAL SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	\$ 25,000
01-51880-03	COUNTY FARM ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT	\$ 15,000
01-51880-04	TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN STUDY	\$ 5,000
	<b>RECREATION</b>	
01-51880-05	WASHINGTON/BUCHANAN PARK	\$ 5,000
01-51880-06	BIKE TRAIL WEST - SURFACING	\$ 72,000
01-51880-07	BIKE TRAIL EAST - SURFACING & FENCE	\$ 33,500
01-51880-08	GAZEBO ROOF REPLACEMENT	\$ 7,500
01-51880-09	OUTDOOR RECREATION DESIGN	\$ 20,000
01-51880-10	OUTDOOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION	\$ 20,000
01-51880-66	OUTDOOR REC. FACILITY PROJECT	\$ 20,000
	<b>OTHER</b>	
01-51880-11	STREETSCAPE - N SIDE OF SUBWAY	\$ 19,000
01-5188012	HIGH SPEED FIBER OPTIC PROJECT	\$ 25,000
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 518,000</b>

		<b>Proposed FY 2011</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
01-51880-02	Streetscape - West Main Street	\$ 50,000
01-51880-03	Roof Replacements - Hail Damage	\$ 57,900
01-51880-13	Road Materials - Sand, Culverts, Rock, Etc.	\$ 20,000
01-51880-14	Sidewalk Replacement Program	\$ 15,000
01-51880-15	Kirby Creek Improvement Project	\$ 10,000
01-51880-16	Buchanan Street Bridge Replacement Project	\$ 25,000
01-51880-17	Oil & Chip Supplement	\$ 10,000
01-51880-18	Transportation Improvement Project	\$ 143,500
01-51880-19	County Farm Road Improvements	\$ 20,000
01-51880-20	Backup Power Public Works Facility	\$ 5,000
01-51880-21	Radio Replacement Program	\$ 15,000
01-51880-31	Storm water Engineering & Consulting	\$ 15,000
01-51880-38	Lincoln School Neighborhood Drainage Project	\$ 15,000
01-51880-62	Nick's Park Upgrade	\$ 3,000
01-51880-65	Pool Project	\$ -
01-51880-66	Outdoor Recreation Facility	\$ 25,000
01-51880-73	Livingston Center Rehab. Project	\$ 15,000
01-51880-80	Equipment Replacement Program	\$ 57,500
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 501,900</b>

## **FUNDING SOURCES**

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Current funding for the City of Monticello recreation department is principally derived from three sources: General Revenue Funds, program fees, and municipal bonds for capital expenditures. There is not a set line item for capital improvements. Instead, the Recreation Department puts its needs into a ‘general wish list’ with other City improvements’. The funding strategy must rely on multiple revenue streams—not on one or two sources—to make the Department and individual programs more self-supporting. Cities and agencies nationwide are successfully supplementing proceeds with funding sources from the list below. The City should consider their use during the planning stage for new programs, parks, and facilities. Popular supplemental park revenue sources include:

**Advertising Sales:** This revenue source is selling tasteful and appropriate advertising for park and recreation-related items such as Program Catalogs, and other visible products or services that are consumable or permanent. This opportunity exposes the advertiser’s product or service to many people.

**Agreements with Private Concessionaires:** This is a contract with a private business to provide and operate desirable concessions at recreational activities. These would be financed, constructed, and operated by the concessionaire, with additional compensation paid to the town. Annual

**Appropriation/Leasehold Financing:** This is a more complex financing structure that requires a third party to issue the bonds, construct the facility, and retain title until the bonds are retired. The Park District enters into a lease agreement with the third party, with annual lease payments equal to the debt service requirements. The bonds issued by the third party are considered less secure than the town’s general obligation bonds and thus cost more. Since a separate corporation issues these bonds, they do not affect the park district’s debt limitations and do not require a vote. However, they also do not entitle the park district to levy property taxes to service the debt. The annual lease payments must be appropriated from existing revenues.

**Park Sponsorships:** Homeowners or businesses located near parks or district facilities could pay a yearly fee for implementation and maintenance of flower beds or other landscape improvements, brightening the community and providing an infusion of cash which covers the cost of improvements, fountains, and turf and landscape care.

**Capital Improvement Fees:** These fees are in addition to the set user rate for accessing facilities such as golf courses, recreation centers, and pools to support capital improvements that benefit users.

**Catering Permits and Services:** This is a license to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis; a set fee or a percentage of food sales is returned to the town. Cities with their own catering service receive a percentage of food sales.

## **GRANTS**

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### **OSLAD**

The OSLAD (Open Space and Lands Acquisition and Development Program) is a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Structured similarly to the federal LAWCON grants, the program disperses approximately \$ 11 million each year to local government agencies for the purpose of constructing new outdoor recreation facilities or acquiring new recreation lands. Application deadline is July 1 of each year. A complete submittal includes public meetings, a Recreation Master Plan, maps, plans, budgets, and site information. Check with <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/gaoutnew.htm>.

### **PARC**

The Park Grant program was initiated in 2010 to assist Park District and units of local government to build and renovate buildings and ‘brick & mortar’ facilities that incur large costs and do not fit the OSLAD guidelines. Originally authorized for \$ 125 million, the program does not follow a determined schedule. So far, only \$50 million of the program has been awarded. The Park District should review its potential projects for a PARC grant, and be ready to move quickly in the event a new cycle is announced. Guidelines are similar to OSLAD, except that

matching is 75/25, and the maximum grant is \$2.5 million. Note that if a project better suits OSLAD guidelines, it will probably not rate well for a PARC grant. As of this writing, the PARC program, although still funded, is in jeopardy of being terminated during state budget cuts and has not been announced for future submittals.

<http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newPARC1.htm>

### **ITEP / CMAQ / RTP**

The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is a federal program that was initiated to help build and refurbish complimentary features to the nation's roadway system. Funding was broken into several categories with different names and proportional allotments of funding. Projects include downtown revitalization, on and off-road bicycle trails, rest areas, and pedestrian bridges. This program is funded from time to time, and is currently funded in 2012.

CMAQ is a similar program based on eliminating vehicle trips and vehicle emissions through proper placement of bicycle trails and other forms of alternative transportation. This program is more definitive in requirements, and can be used for on-and off-road trails.

RTP is another part of Federal programs that is governed by the state, again for the construction and rehabilitation of trails.

### **BIKE PATH PROGRAM**

IDNR sponsors an annual grant program for the acquisition of pathway corridors, and the construction of off-road bicycle trails. These trails must connect specific destination points, such as forest preserves, parks, schools, and community centers. This program is lightly funded, and has not been awarded for several years.

### **ILLINOIS CLEAN ENERGY**

Sponsored by the Illinois EPA, Clean Energy grants are made available to increase lighting efficiency of various facilities.

### **INITIATIVE GRANTS**

During positive budget years, State government has traditionally allowed individual Cities to plan for and fund a myriad of projects throughout the state, ranging from purchase of fire trucks to the construction of a new playground. As state budgets fluctuate, so does

the availability of this type of funding. It does, however, stress the fact that many local projects can receive legislative assistance if it is requested. The Park Board and Director should strive to maintain positive working relationships and support of their local legislators.

### **SPONSORSHIPS / PARTNERSHIPS**

A current trend in local Park Departments is to seek sponsorships for recreation programs and special events, such as covering the cost of a band, paying for a senior dinner, etc. This strategy can be expanded to provide funding for parks in interesting ways, and should not be overlooked.

- Cell towers – lease fees for space to construct
- Advertising signs on baseball and football fences
- Advertising on scoreboards
- Facility naming
- Special grants programs through major retailers
- Leasing concessions to private concessionaries
- Tree memorial programs
- Buy –a –Brick campaigns for playgrounds and new facilities
- Long-term, low cost land leases
- Joint development with schools, other government agencies

## ***OTHER RESOURCES***

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### **KODAK – GREENWAY FOUNDATION CENTER**

This is a partnership foundation that provides small grants to spearhead planning and design of greenways throughout America. The program is meant to Develop new, action-oriented greenway projects assist grassroots greenway organizations, leverage additional money for conservation and greenway development, and recognize and encourage greenway proponents and organizations.

Check with <http://www.conservationfund.org>

### **PROJECT for PUBLIC SPACES**

The Urban Park Institute is a tremendous resource of ideas, from planning to funding, to management. Many examples of successful projects are highlighted, as well as links to many potential partnerships and grant foundations. Check with <http://www.pps.org>.

### **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)**

The NRPA website lists a variety of federal programs designed to assist local agencies across a wide range of potential needs.

Check with

[http://www.nrpa.org/story.cfm?story\\_id=81&publicationID=11&departmentid=6](http://www.nrpa.org/story.cfm?story_id=81&publicationID=11&departmentid=6)

### **Tony Hawk Foundation Skate park Grants**

<http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/skatepark-grants/apply/>

### **US. SOCCER FOUNDATION**

[www.ussoccerfoundation.org](http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org)

Grants for field construction; artificial turf construction, programs

### **BASEBALL TOMORROW FUND**

[mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official\\_info/community/btf.jsp](http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/community/btf.jsp)

Grants for ballfield construction, programs

The mission of BTF is to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball throughout the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, and the purchase of uniforms and equipment to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Grants are designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their communities. The funds are intended to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment. BTF provides grants to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in both rural and urban communities. BTF awards an average of 40 grants per year totaling more than \$1.5 million annually. The average grant amount is approximately \$40,000. BTF is now funded annually by MLB and the Players Association.

### **NFL Grass Roots Program**

[www.nflyff.org/grant\\_programs/grassroots](http://www.nflyff.org/grant_programs/grassroots)

The NFL Grassroots Field Grant Program provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations and high schools with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of football fields in underserved areas of NFL markets. A partnership between the YFF and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the program makes available matching grants up to \$200,000 for capital improvement projects including field surface grants and general field support.

To be eligible for the NFL Grassroots Program, organizations applying for grant funds must meet all of the criteria listed below:

- Be a community-based organization, middle school or high school serving a neighborhood consisting primarily of

low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

*Please note:*

- Schools must demonstrate the ability of the community to also utilize the field;
- Universities and college campuses are not eligible to apply for NFL Grassroots grants and will not be considered for funding.
- Have at least one full-time staff person (all-volunteer organizations will not be considered);
- Be in existence for at least three years;
- Have a proven track record in real estate development and/or parks programming;
- 501(c)(3) tax exempt status/school status; and
- Be located in an NFL Target Market (Please see the list of Target Markets in Attachment A).

Grant applications are usually accepted beginning in September of each year.

There are two levels of funding available: 1) general field support (e.g. irrigation, bleachers, lights, etc.) and, 2) field surface grants.

**General Field Support:** applicants may submit requests of up to \$50,000 for capital projects not associated with the actual field surface. This support includes the installation/refurbishment of bleachers, concession stands, lights, irrigation systems, etc.

**Field Surface Grants:** Matching grants of up to \$200,000 are available to help finance the resurfacing of a community, middle school or high school football field. Matching grants of up to \$200,000 will be available to applicants seeking to install new synthetic sports turf surfaces. The ability of these new surfaces to withstand constant use and require little ongoing maintenance

costs makes this an attractive option for communities, schools and youth groups to consider.

A smaller number of matching grants of up to \$100,000 will be available to help finance the resurfacing of a community, middle school or high school football field utilizing natural grass/ sod surfaces. If applicants choose to utilize natural grass/sod surfaces as opposed to the synthetic sports surfaces, a minimum five-year maintenance plan and corresponding financial budget must be provided in order to demonstrate that the applying organization will maintain the field despite projected wear and tear and potential overuse by youth sports participants. Funds from the Program may not be used to maintain field surfaces, as all grant funds must be used for capital expenditures.

#### **GRAND VICTORIA FOUNDATION**

<http://www.grandvictoriafdn.org>

Grand Victoria Foundation forms partnerships with organizations that strive to strengthen educational opportunities for children and adults, boost the economic vitality of neighborhoods, cities, and regions, and restore and preserve the health of our environment.

#### **Mission**

The mission of Grand Victoria Foundation is to assist communities in their efforts to pursue systemic solutions to problems in specific areas of education, economic development and the environment.

#### **COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

[www.communityfoundationci.org/recent-grants](http://www.communityfoundationci.org/recent-grants)

## **THE FOUNDATION CENTER**

<http://foundationcenter.org/>

Established in 1956 and today supported by close to 550 foundations, the Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and RESOURCES**

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2. Monticello Recreation Program Guides
3. Outdoor Recreation Facilities Guide, IDNR, March 2000
4. Community Park and Recreation Planning, IDNR, 1994
5. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, National Park and Recreation Association, 1996.
6. National Park and Recreation Association website, <http://www.nrpa.org>
7. Piatt County and Illinois Trail Maps
8. Conservation Foundation, Naperville Illinois, Brook MacDonald, Director.
9. Meeting Notes from User Groups; Public meetings January – March 2012
10. Meeting Notes from Interview with Carlos McClellan and staff
11. Meeting notes from Public Hearing - July – Fall 2012

## APPENDIX ‘A’

### FACILITY DESIGN & PLANNING STANDARDS

In designing and locating parks for public use, generalized standards have been studied across the nation, and recognized by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has also created a design manual for public improvements. These standards need to be used with judgment and care depending on individual circumstances and needs. The following considerations are also pertinent:

1. The standards outlined by NRPA are general guidelines that may need to be modified based on the needs of existing and future residents as identified in comprehensive planning process with public input.
2. The acquisition of land for parks should be based on strategic planning based on the needs of residents, geographic deficiencies and population trends. For example, neighborhood or smaller parks should be located in close proximity to each neighborhood.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
<b>Badminton</b>	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17’x44’  Doubles – 20’x44’	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - 1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
<b>Basketball</b>  1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	2400-3036 sq. ft.  5040-7280 sq. ft.  5600-7980 sq. ft.	46-50’x84’  50’x84’  50’x94’  with 5’ unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
<b>Handball</b>  (3-4 wall)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall  1000 for 3-wall	20’x40’ – Minimum of 10’ to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20’ overhead clearance	Long axis north-south.  Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85’x200’ (minimum 85’x185’) Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
<b>Tennis</b>	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36’x78’. 12’ clearance on both sides; 21’ clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000	¼-1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/commu nity park or adjacent to school

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
<b>Volleyball</b>	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
<b>Baseball</b>  1. <b>Official</b>  2. <b>Little League</b>	3.0-3.85 A minimum  1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+  Baselines – 60'  Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000  Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
<b>Field Hockey</b>	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
<b>Football</b>	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
<b>Soccer</b>	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
<b>Golf-driving Range</b>	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
<b>¼ Mile Running Track</b>	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
<b>Softball</b>	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60 ' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' women. Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
<b>Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)</b>	9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with <i>primary</i> use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
<b>Trails</b>	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
<b>Archery Range</b>	Minimum 0.65 A	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
<b>Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)</b>	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
<b>Golf</b>  <b>Par 3 (18 hole)</b>  <b>9-hole standard</b>  <b>18-hole standard</b>	50-60 A  Minimum 50 A  Minimum 110 A	Average length vary 600-2700 yd.  Average length – 2250 yards  Average length 6500 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis	--  1/25,000  1/50,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day.  18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft.  <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000  (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
<b>Beach Areas</b>	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.
<b>Skate Parks</b>			N/A		N/A	Accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. Allow for viewing areas, and support such as drinking fountains, shade

National Recreation and Park Association

**APPENDIX ‘B’  
ILLINOIS DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES - GRANTS DIVISION  
USEFUL LIFE CRITERIA**

This information is used by the IDNR to judge applicability of grant funds towards renovation of existing facilities – if an amenity is too new, it will not be funded. It is important to keep this in mind when seeking grant assistance. The tables also support the creation of a Capital Replacement budget, and a method of anticipating equipment and facility replacement.

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>EXPECTED USEFUL LIFE</u>	<u>EVALUATION CRITERIA – FACTORS</u>
<u>BB/Softball Fields</u>	8 – 10 years	# Games/week, # Practices/week Grass infields? Maintenance Procedure/Standards Is site used for multiple uses; soccer, football? Is space used for organized or programmed events? Spectator considerations – bleachers
<u>BB/Softball Field Lighting</u>	20 years	Pole type (wood, steel, concrete) Wiring type (aluminum, copper) HID or incandescent fixtures Existing FC vs. new standards. Accepted grounding systems? Panel Capabilities/Technology Electrical Code compliance
<u>Soccer Fields</u>	8 – 10 years	Usage rating A/B/C/D # Games/week, #weeks/year, time of year, age of user
<u>Irrigation System</u>	20 years	Irrigated Y/N Usage # games/week Drainage considerations Maintenance standards/levels Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent? Is site used for multiple uses? Softball, BB or football?
<u>Tennis Courts</u>		Lighted Y/N (use BB criteria)
Resurface	12 - 15 years	Surface clay, asphalt, other
Total renovation	20 – 25 years	Color coat/overlay/rebuild Frequency of color coating Location – high water table? Fencing material posts Preventative maintenance Location: Water table concerns Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent?

<u>Basketball Courts</u>		Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12 – 15 years	
Total renovation	20 – 25 years	
<u>Volleyball Courts</u>		Sand/Grass? Lighted? Y/N Borders/Bleachers/Spectator area
<u>Shuffleboard</u>		Same as tennis courts
Resurface	12 – 15 years	
Total renovation	20 – 25 years	
<u>Picnic Shelters</u>	25 years	Support structures: masonry, steel, wood Roof type: metal, asphalt, shingle, slate, cedar shake Construction type: post & beam, frame Historical value and consideration Preventative maintenance record Is site used for organized or programmed events? To what extent?
<u>Playgrounds</u>		Meets standards? ASTM., CPSC, ADA
Metal	15 years	Daily usage by intended user group Location:
Plastic	10 years	school, neighborhood park
Wood	8 – 12 years	Surfacing material Preventative maintenance record Border construction material Location: retention area/water?
<u>Boat Launch Ramps</u>	15 – 20 years	Construction material: gravel, concrete Location, i.e. Lake Michigan Annual usage Is facility fee generating Region
<u>Fishing Piers &amp; Docks</u>	15 – 20 years	Original construction material: plastic, wood, Aluminum Location, i.e. Lake Michigan Annual volume usage Winter removal and storage? Preventative maintenance record
<u>Swimming Pools</u>	25 years	Stand alone site?
Bathhouse	25 years	Heated for winter?

<u>Boathouse</u>	10 – 15 years	Attached to Community Center Y/N Mechanical room connected? ADA Compliance Y/N Local Code compliance? Preventative maintenance record Location, i.e. Lake Michigan
<u>Restrooms</u>	Same as Pools	Same as Pools
<u>Parking Lots</u>		Gravel, asphalt or concrete
Resurface	10 – 12 years	Monthly volume and load use i.e. delivery trucks or garbage
Total renovation	20 – 25 years	Spring use – heavy, moderate, light Seal coating frequency Preventative maintenance record Original construction design loads Location: flooding/water concerns
<u>Bike Paths</u>	Same as Parking Lots	Same as Parking Lots
<u>Interpretive Center</u>	Same as Boathouse	Same as Boathouse

Note:  
Skate parks are not yet listed by the IDNR, however, a similar life expectancy to playgrounds could be applied.

10 years	Wood framed., plastic skate surface
12-15 years	Steel frame, plastic or steel surface
20 years	Concrete surface